**Substantive Change Request Form**

*Effective* *Date: July 1, 2023*

**Closure of Branch Campus**

Tier III

A branch campus is defined as a domestic or international physical location that is geographically separate from the main campus and within the same ownership structure of the institution, and that is also (1) approved by the Secretary as a branch campus, and (2) is independent of the main campus, . The branch campus is considered independent of the main campus if it is permanent in nature; offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and has its own budgetary and hiring authority. Please see the *Substantive Change Guidelines* for a more detailed description and examples.

The Commission utilizes the federal definition of branch campus in *34 CFR § 600.2* and will conform its designation to match the Secretary of Education’s if it learns its designations diverge in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.24(f)(1-3).*

A closure is when an institution intends to cease instruction entirely at an existing branch campus, and the branch campus will be removed from the institution’s scope of accreditation.

The Commission’s requirements for substantive change review and approval include when the institution is planning to close a branch campus.

A teach-out plan is required when the branch campus that is being closed provides 100 percent of at least one program.

**Review and Organize**

* Read the [Substantive Change Policy](https://www.msche.org/policies-guidelines/?title-search=substantive+change&type=), [Substantive Change Procedures](https://www.msche.org/policies-guidelines/?title-search=substantive+change&type=), [and Substantive Change Guidelines](https://www.msche.org/policies-guidelines/page/4/) before completing the request form. This request form aligns with the Substantive Change Procedures effective July 1, 2023.
* Organize analysis and evidence sufficient for review. Several questions on this form contain “examples of evidence.” All of the examples are not required.
* Supply evidence that directly relates to the proposed change and provides sufficient information for the peer review process.
* If substantive change request requires that a teach-out plan and teach-out agreements, it should be submitted in conjunction with the substantive change request. Review the Commission's [Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures](file:///C%3A/Users/CarmellaSmith/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/XT4WRS4A/Review%20the%20Commission%E2%80%99s%20Teach-Out%20Plans%20and%20Agreements%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%20https%3A/www.msche.org/policies-guidelines/).

**Complete**

* Answer all questions with succinct and detailed information. Where some questions do not apply, note “N/A” in the provided response sections.
* The substantive change **request form including attachments should not exceed 100 pages**. Do not include attachments that have not been referred to in the request.
* All attachments should be labeled appropriately. The form and the attachments should be combined into a **single bookmarked PDF document**.
* The teach-out plans and agreements form must also be completed, and all questions answered for a closing institution. The form and the attachments should be combined into one single bookmarked PDF document.

**Submit**

* Submit request form in MSCHE Institution Portal. Instructions at [www.msche.org/substantive-change/](http://www.msche.org/substantive-change/)
* Submit the teach-out plan and teach-out agreements as a bookmarked PDF file into the appropriate teach-out review in the MSCHE Institution Portal.

**Date Submitted: Click or tap to enter a date.**

**Institution: Click or tap here to enter text.**

**City, State:** **Click or tap here to enter text.**

Section A: Substantive Change Request

Answer each question.

1. Select **sub-type of change:**

[ ]  Closure of Branch Campus (no teach-out) - closing a branch campus when less than 100 percent of a program is offered there

[ ]  Closure of Branch Campus (with teach-out) - closing a branch campus when 100 percent of a program is offered there

1. **Provide name and full physical address of branch campus to be closed:**

***Note****: The address provided here will be listed in the secure MSCHE portal and on the institution’s statement of accreditation status (SAS). If you participate in Title IV student financial aid programs, you must ensure that you provide the same name and physical address to MSCHE that you will use in the E-Application. The name and address in the MSCHE secure portal must match USDE record*s.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. Describe the **rationale** for the substantive change.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. The Commission requires a teach-out plan be submitted if 100% of an academic program is offered at a branch campus you are closing.  The teach-out plan and teach-out agreements must be submitted in conjunction with a request for approval of this closure in accordance with the Commission’s Teach-out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures. The [Teach-out Plans and Agreements Form](https://msche.box.com/shared/static/ko73ne1h2sdvaooxtlv9dozmuh1mbzm6.docx) **must be completed** and **uploaded** into a separate Teach-Out review in the MSCHE Institution portal at the same time as this substantive change.
2. **Timeline**: Provide a timeline of the proposed substantive change with critical milestones which include the anticipated effective date instruction cease at the branch campus. (Label attachment **Timeline**)

***[Note****: After the Commission acts on this substantive change request and instruction cease, you must go the MSCHE Institution Portal and enter the actual date (Month, day, year) that instruction ceases at the branch campus.]*

Section B: Compliance with the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation, Requirements of Affiliation, Policies and Procedures, and Applicable Federal Regulatory Requirements

The Commission will only include a substantive change within the institution’s scope of accreditation if the change does not adversely affect the institution's compliance with the Commission's standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements.

1. **Communication (Standard II):** Describe how the institution will ensure that the change will be publicized and made known to key institutional stakeholders.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. **Teach-out Plan**: The Commission requires a teach-out plan be submitted if 100% of an academic program is offered at the branch campus you are closing.  The teach-out plan and teach-out agreements must be submitted in conjunction with a request for approval of this closure in accordance with the Commission’s Teach-out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures. The [Teach-out Plans and Agreements Form](https://msche.box.com/shared/static/ko73ne1h2sdvaooxtlv9dozmuh1mbzm6.docx) **must be completed** and **uploaded** into a separate Teach-Out review in the MSCHE Institution portal at the same time as this substantive change.
2. **Faculty, Staff and Students (Standard III and IV)**: Describe the impact of the change on faculty, staff, and students.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. **Financial (Standard VI):** Provide an analysis of the financial impact of the closure of the branch campus.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. **Related Entities (Standard VII)**. If this substantive change involves a related entity as defined in the Commission’s Related Entities Policy and Procedures, please answer the following questions:
2. Describe the institution’s relationship with the related entit(ies) and the entity’s role in the substantive change, particularly in the delivery of any educational program.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

1. The Commission staff may request that the institution provide the *Related Entities Required Disclosures and Certification Statement* for certain types of substantive changes. Provide the certification statement only upon request.
2. **Title IV Certification**. If the institution participates in Title IV student financial aid programs with the United States Department of Education (USDE), please answer the following questions:
	1. Will the institution apply for certification to participate in Title IV programs or submit a change to the E-App related to this substantive change?

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

* 1. Attach the institution’s current Eligibility and Certification Approval Report (ECAR).

 *The institution must also submit an updated E-CAR to the Commission documenting the USDE approval of the change as soon as it is available. Email the document to* *substantivechange@msche.org**.*

1. Please provide, very briefly, any additional information that may be helpful to the Commission regarding this substantive change.

**Click or tap here to enter text.**

**Section C: Institutional Standing with Accrediting Agencies**

Complete the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Institutional Standing Question | Accrediting Agency Status | If **YES**, please indicate: * Name of the agency
* Due date of the next report
* Attach a copy of the most recent related action letter
 |
| Is the institution currently in non-compliance status (e.g., warning, probation, show-cause) or subject to any adverse action with the Commission? | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES |  |
| Has any other accrediting agency asked for follow-up reporting from the institution, including any of its branch campuses, additional locations, or other sites within the last two full academic years, including the current year? | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES |  |
| Is the institution being monitored or reviewed by any federal agency, including the United States Department of Education, or any state agency for any reason (including but not limited to Title IV program responsibilities, heightened cash monitoring), including any of its branch campuses, additional locations, or other sites within the last two full academic years, including current year? | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES |  |

**Section D: Required Approvals for the Substantive Change**

List and **provide written documentation** of all required internal and external approvals required for the proposed substantive change.  The institution must provide written documentation from the entity or agency to demonstrate if no approval is required (e.g., correspondence, regulation, statute). The institution must provide written documentation of all required approvals to the Commission as soon as they are received.  (***Label attachments Board-Approval, State-Agency-Approval, Federal Agency-Approval, etc****.)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Approvals  | Name of Agency | Obtained?  | Date Received/Date Expected*If not required, provide documentation* |
| Institutional  (*administration, faculty, committees, governing body*) |  | \*NO [ ]  YES  |   |
| System   |  | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES [ ]  N/A |   |
| State |  | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES  |   |
| Federal *(including USDE and any Title IV implications)* |  | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES  |  |
| International |  | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES [ ]  N/A |  |
| Other Legal, Contractual, or Other Required   |  | [ ]  NO [ ]  YES [ ]  N/A |   |

*\* The institution must provide, at a minimum, written documentation of all required institutional approvals with the submission of this form.*

**Section E: Checklist and Certifications**

By signing and submitting this *Substantive Change Request Form*, the individual below certifies that:

* The *Substantive Change Policy* *and* *Procedures* have been reviewed.
* The information included in the substantive change request form is accurate at the time of submission.
* The institution will notify the Commission of subsequent, significant developments that could affect the Commission's decision.
* The substantive change request form has been completed in its entirety and attachments are appropriately labeled to facilitate the review.
* The appropriate individuals at the institution have authorized the submission of this request for review by the Commission.
* The institution understands it must take into consideration applicable State laws, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other privacy laws. The institution may redact personal or sensitive information, in accordance with these laws, for submission to the Commission.
* The institution understands that prior approval of all substantive changes before implementation is required by the Commission.
* The institution understands that retroactive approval will not be included within the scope of the institution's accreditation status.
* The institution understands it should not advertise or market the substantive change before the request is submitted.
* The institution understands that the Commission will not include a substantive change if it adversely affects the institution's compliance with the Commission's standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements.
* The institution understands that the Commission reserves the right to reject incomplete requests or requests that exceed 100 pages.
* The institution understands that it must provide immediate notification of any outstanding information (e.g., a site visit, evidence of appropriate approvals, etc.). The institution's responsibility is to ensure all conditions have been met and that the Commission has received all necessary documentation.
* The institution understands that the Commission may take action in accordance with its *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*.

**The Substantive Change Request Form must be submitted by the institution's Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)**

Provide Name, Title, Email, and Phone Number of (ALO) submitting this request:

|  |
| --- |
| Name: **Click or tap here to enter text.**Title: **Click or tap here to enter text.**Email: **Click or tap here to enter text.** Phone Number: **Click or tap here to enter text.** |

*Please sign by typing the name of the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) or including an electronic signature of the ALO in the space provided:*

Signature of ALO: **Click or tap here to enter text.**

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