



## **EXPECTATIONS FOR ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS**

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### **1.2. EXPECTATIONS FOR ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS**

Accreditation is the educational community's means of self-regulation through quality assurance and continuous improvement. The accreditation process is intended to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of education, making it worthy of public confidence and minimizing the scope of external control. In order to be deserving of this public trust, accredited institutions must affirm their accreditation in the following ways:

#### 1.2.1. General Expectations for Accredited Institutions

- a) Accredited institutions shall operate in the public interest and in accordance with ethical practice and Standards for Accreditation.
- b) Accredited institutions recognize that the extent to which each educational institution accepts and fulfills the responsibilities inherent in the accreditation process is a measure of its concern for freedom, independence, and quality in education and its commitment to striving for and achieving excellence in its endeavors.
- c) Accredited institutions shall demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement.
- d) Accredited institutions shall promote honest and open analysis in this collegial activity by receiving evaluators with openness and candor and by providing access to institutional documents and records.
- e) Accredited institutions shall make every effort to fulfill the commitment to address evaluation team recommendations and to implementing action plans designed to meet objectives.
- f) Accredited institutions shall maintain, in writing, clearly specified objectives that are consistent with the institution's mission and be able to demonstrate progress in achieving those objectives.

#### 1.2.2. Expectations for Meeting Commission Requirements

- a) Accredited institutions shall meet all Standards for Accreditation.
- b) Accredited institutions shall fulfill all expectations associated with the accreditation protocol used.
- c) Accredited institutions shall file written progress reports as required by the Commission and/or host a mid-point onsite review by a Commission-appointed representative (see Section 5.3.--Self-Study and Evaluation Policies: Maintenance Requirements).

- d) Accredited institutions shall host special visits and comply with other requirements as required by the Commission.
- e) Accredited institutions shall file special reports as required by the Commission.
- f) Accredited institutions shall submit an Annual Profile updating statistical data and contact information on the institution.
- g) Accredited institutions shall pay annual membership dues and applicable fees in a timely manner.
- h) Accredited institutions shall inform the Commission of substantive changes that occur between regularly scheduled periodic evaluations.
- i) Accredited institutions shall adhere to Commission on Secondary Schools accreditation policies.

1.2.3. Expectations for Participation in the Work of the Commission

- a) Accredited institutions shall submit an annual nomination form to the Commission on Secondary Schools, listing members of the professional staff recommended and willing to serve on visiting/validation teams.
- b) Accredited institutions shall release at least one staff member per year, when requested, to serve on an evaluation team.
- c) Accredited institutions are expected to involve administrators, faculty, students, and others in the self-study and planning processes.

1.2.4. Expectations for Dealing with Constituencies and the Public

- a) Accredited institutions shall operate in accordance with ethical practice with respect to the rights and responsibilities of faculty, students, administrators, board members, and all others related to the institution.
- b) Accredited institutions shall, under the leadership of the head of the institution, distribute evaluation reports and correspondence from the Commission regarding the institution's accredited status to the institution's governing body and to other appropriate parties.

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