



Policy Changes Proposed on First Reading

Title: Student Achievement

Background

The general public, students and their parents have an interest in knowing about the performance of students at institutions of higher education. Therefore, at the state and federal level there are various requirements that institutions publish this information. The Higher Learning Commission policy requires that institutions be in compliance with these requirements; in addition, the Commission has requirements that relate to the disclosure of this information.

The Council on Higher Education Accreditation has standards for formally recognizing accrediting agencies. Although the Commission at its most recent review was found to be in compliance with CHEA standards for recognition, CHEA raised questions about the Commission's compliance with the standard on requiring institutions to publish information on student achievement because it lacked a specific policy in this regard and because it could not demonstrate that its accredited institutions uniformly divulged such information.

To address this issue, the Commission proposes to adopt a new policy mandating institutional disclosure of this information. This summer, the Commission will ask each institution to explain how it provides this information to the public. Beginning in 2015-16 the Commission will routinely review this information when it checks institutional compliance with the Federal Compliance Requirements.

Key to Proposed Changes

Policy wording to be deleted or revised is shown as strikethrough (~~old wording~~); new policy language, whether through addition or revision, is shown in bold (**new wording**).

Comments Invited

The Commission invites comments on these changes before the Board takes final action at its meeting on October 30 - 31, 2014. Comments can be sent to policycomments@hlcommission.org. Comments on these policies are due by September 15, 2014.🌿

| Policy FDCR.A.10.070 | Public Information |
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| | <p><i>Required Information for Students and the Public</i></p> <p>An institution demonstrates that it makes available to students and the public fair, accurate and complete information in catalogs, student handbooks, and other publications that include, at a minimum, information about the institution's calendar, grading, admissions, academic program requirements, tuition and fees, and refund policies.</p> <p><i>Information about Student Achievement</i></p> <p>An institution's public information shall include information regarding student achievement.</p> |

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| | <p>This information shall include student retention rates, completion rates or other information appropriate for the mission of the institution and its goals for students.</p> <p><i>Advertising and Recruiting Materials and Other Public Information</i> An institution's public information including its advertising and recruiting materials shall evidence the same fairness and accuracy the Commission expects in an institution's catalog and other documents for students.</p> <p><i>Disclosure of Affiliation Status</i> If the institution chooses to reference its accreditation status in advertising and recruiting materials or other document or location, that disclosure will accurately explain its status with the Commission and the academic programs, locations and other institutional activities included in its accreditation. It will accompany that reference with information on how to contact the Commission. It shall provide the Commission's address and telephone number or it may use the Commission's website address in lieu of this information. Electronic materials shall use the Commission's collective membership mark. The Commission reserves the right to issue a public statement or Public Disclosure Notice (PDN) correcting any incorrect or misleading information the Commission determines that an institution has publicized about its accreditation status, recent actions by the Commission or other information.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Policy Number Key</i> <i>Section FDCR: Policies Required by Federal Regulations</i> <i>Chapter A: Federal Compliance</i> <i>Part 10: General</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Last Revised: June 2012</i> <i>First Adopted: August 1990, February 1996, and June 2012</i> <i>Revision History: August 1996, effective September 1996, renumbered February 2010, revised and renumbered June 2012.</i> <i>Notes: Policies combined November 2012- 4.0(f), 4.0(g), 4.0(j).</i></p> |
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