
Training for the New York State Board of Regents – Institutional Accreditation



Office of Higher Education
New York State Education Department
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Institutional Accreditation Review

The Regents accreditation action is the culmination of an intensive process of review:

- Institution applies and submits a self-study.
- Peer Review team reviews self-study, conducts a site visit (with State Ed Department staff) and prepares a draft report.
- Institution responds to the report within 30 days.
- The Department makes a recommendation to the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation (RAC). RAC is an external council composed of educators and public members.
- RAC makes a recommendation to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents.
- The Board of Regents considers the recommendation at a public meeting and makes a final determination on accreditation status.

Accreditation Standards

Part 4 Regents Accreditation, Subpart 4-1.4

Voluntary Institutional Accreditation for Title IV Purposes

Institutional Mission	Assessment of Student Achievement
Programs of Study	Faculty
Resources	Administration
Support Services	Admissions
Consumer Information	Student Complaints
Additional Standards	

Standard: Institutional Mission §4-1.4(a)

- The institution has a clear statement of purpose, mission, and goals
- Reflected in the policies, practices, and outcomes
- Mission may include:
 - academic purposes
 - social and economic context
 - the roles teaching, creation and
 - preservation of knowledge, and service;
 - the nature of constituents to be served; and
 - the bases for setting priorities.



Standard: Assessment of student achievement §4-1.4(b)

- The institution has a plan for the systematic assessment of its effectiveness in promoting the quality of student achievement and development.
- Plan may include graduation rates, retention rates, state licensing examination results, job placement rates, etc.
- ***Job placement rates and statewide graduation rate averages*** by degree level provide benchmarks for performance.



Standard: Programs of Study §4-1.4(c)

- Integrity of credit
- **Goals and objectives**
- Assessment of success
- Program length, credit, and other requirements for degrees

Standard: Faculty §4-1.4(d)

- Competence and credentials
- Adequacy to support programs and services
- Evaluation and professional responsibilities



Standard: Resources §4-1.4(e)

- Facilities, equipment, and supplies
- Library and information resources
- Fiscal capacity



Standard: Administration § 4-1.4(f)

- **Responsibilities**
- **Published Policies**



Standard: Support Services § 4-1.4(g)

- **Provides adequate support services**
- **Provides sufficient supplemental academic services to students admitted with deficiencies**



Standard: Admissions § 4-1.4(h)

- An ***orderly process*** using published criteria
- Takes into account ***the capacity of the student*** and ***the capacity of the institution*** to serve the student
- Increase enrollment by persons from groups ***historically underrepresented***
- ***Shall not refuse a student's request for transfer of credit*** based solely upon the source of accreditation of the sending institution, where the sending institution is institutionally accredited for Title IV purposes

Standard: Consumer Information § 4-1.4(h)

Financial aid	Costs (tuition, books, etc.)
Withdrawal and refund policies	Degree, certificate and diploma programs
Academic year in which each course is expected to be taught	Program related facilities
Faculty and other instructional personnel	Recruiting and admission practices
Academic calendar	Grading
Student retention and graduation	Outcomes for former students

Also, **advertising** shall not be *false, misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent*

Standard: Student complaints §4-1.4(j)

- ***Establish, publish, and consistently administer*** student complaint procedures
- ***May have informal means*** for redress of their complaints.
- ***Must have a formal complaint procedure***
- Maintains ***adequate documentation*** about each formal complaint and its disposition ***for a period of at least six years*** after final disposition of the complaint.

Additional Standards

HEA Title IV program responsibilities § 4-1.4 (k)

- Has procedures in place to ensure that it is ***in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV***
- ***Maintains a record of its compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV*** of the HEA over the previous 10 years

Teach-out agreements §4-1.4 (l)

- Any teach-out agreement that an institution has entered into with another institution or institutions ***shall be submitted to the department for approval***

Public disclosure of accreditation status §4-1.4 (m)

- ***Discloses its accreditation status accurately*** and includes the specific academic and instructional programs covered by that status.

Possible Accreditation Actions

- Accreditation without conditions
- Accreditation with conditions
- Probationary accreditation
- Denial of accreditation



Accreditation without conditions

- The institution is in full compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation.
- Any follow-up matters are not of a nature or scope that affects the institution's capacity to maintain adherence to the standards.
- Recommendations or any follow-up reports relate either to minor compliance matters or to the strengthening of practices.
- May be for a period of up to ten years; customarily it is not for a period of less than five years.

Accreditation with conditions

- The institution is in substantial compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation.
- Any areas of non-compliance are not of such nature or scope as to call into question the institution's substantive adherence to the institutional accreditation standards.
- The institution demonstrates the intent and capacity to rectify identified deficiencies and to strengthen practice within no more than two years .
- The institution will be required to take steps to remedy issues raised, to provide reports and/or submit to site visits.
- May be for a period of up to ten years, contingent on a finding of compliance within no more than two years on any areas for deficiency cited in the Regents accreditation action.

Probationary accreditation

- The institution is in partial compliance with institutional accreditation standards and may reasonably be expected to meet accreditation standards within no more than two years.
- During this period, the institution provides documentation of compliance with standards, particularly all standards that were not met at the time of the Regents action.
- A follow-up visit by Department staff and/or peer reviewers may be required following provision of a required report.
- This action is applicable only to institutions seeking renewal of accreditation.

Denial of accreditation

- The institution does not meet standards for institutional accreditation and cannot reasonably be expected to meet those standards within two years.

Appeal of advisory council recommendation

- The institution and/or the Deputy Commissioner has the right to appeal the RAC's accreditation decision.
- The Commissioner shall review any appeal papers, written responses filed, the record before RAC, the record of its deliberations, and its findings and recommendations.
- The Commissioner may affirm, reverse, or modify the recommendation of the RAC and constitute a recommendation regarding accreditation action to the Board of Regents.

Appeal of Board of Regents Decision

- The institution may appeal a Regents determination of adverse accreditation action or probationary accreditation.
- The Commissioner transmits the appeal papers to a Subcommittee on Accreditation Appeals of the Committee on Higher Education of the Board of Regents.
- Current members of the Board cannot serve as members of the Subcommittee.
- The Subcommittee reviews any appeal papers, written responses filed, and the entire record upon which the Regents determination was based.
- The Subcommittee may recommend to the Board that it affirm, reverse, or modify its decision.
- The Board of Regents considers the Subcommittee's recommendation at a public meeting.

