

The AWARE Webinar will begin momentarily.

Have questions? Submit them using the dialogue box below.

If we don't get to your question during the Q&A portion, we'll answer and post them in on our website under Frequently Asked Questions under the Events and Workshops tab!



The AWARE Webinar will begin momentarily.

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We'll keep the dialogue going on Twitter using the hash-tag #ACICSaccredits.

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ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Online Public Forum & AWARE Webinar

September 18, 2013

ACICS Webinar **Announcing, Relating & Explaining**
The September 2013 *Memorandum to the Field*



Today's Presenters

- **Albert C. Gray, Ph.D.**, President and CEO
- **Thomas Wickenden, Ph.D.**, Executive Vice President
- **Susan Greer, M.B.A.**, Associate Vice President, Operations
- **Terron King, M.S.**, Manager, Policy & Institutional Review



Outline

- **Welcome**
- **Topic 1: *Proposed Changes to the Accreditation Criteria***
 - Presentation of proposed revisions
- **Topic II: *Final Changes to the Accreditation Criteria***
 - Presentation of final revisions
- **ACICS Annual Conference**
- **Questions and Comments**



Welcome



Albert C. Gray, Ph.D.
President and CEO
ACICS





ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Available at www.ACICS.org

To view the Memo:

> Council Actions

>> Memorandum to the Field

>>> 2013, September

The screenshot shows the ACICS website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and links for 'Create an Account', 'Login', and 'Sitemap'. The main header features the ACICS logo and the full name of the organization. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Accreditation, Council Actions, Students, Evaluators, Events/Workshops, and News. The 'Council Actions' menu is expanded, showing a list of items: Council Actions, Memorandum to the Field, New Grant Schedule, Institutions Invited to Apply, Institution Closings, Accreditation Conditioned, and Voluntary Withdrawal. The 'Memorandum to the Field' page is displayed, featuring a photo of a group of people in a classroom setting. The page content includes the title 'Memorandum to the Field', a brief description of the memorandum's purpose, and a list of dates for 2013: January, March, and April. Social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are also visible.



TOPIC I: Changes to the Criteria

Proposed Criteria Revisions

- ❑ Title II, Chapter 2- Institutional Changes
- ❑ Campus and Institutional Effectiveness Plans



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Title II, Chapter 2
- ✓ Amendments were proposed to address substantive and non-substantive changes to an institution as defined by the Department of Education.



PLEASE NOTE: These changes are specific to substantive changes to an institution as a result of implementation of a program of study that is at a higher credential level, out of scope or being delivered through a non-traditional delivery method.



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- US Department of Education Requirements
 - ✓ The Department of Education requires institutions to obtain the accrediting agency's approval of substantive changes **before the agency includes the change in the scope of accreditation** previously granted to the institution.



Institution. A main campus and any additional locations of that main campus.



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- US Department of Education Requirements
 - ✓ The Department of Education requires the agency's procedures to clarify that the **decision-making body** approves the change with written notification prior to including it in the institution's grant of accreditation .



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Assessment

- 1 The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure from existing offerings of educational programs (“out-of-scope”), or
- 2 method of delivery (“Distance Education”)
- 3 The addition of programs of study at a degree or credential level different from that which is included in the institution’s current accreditation (“Higher credential level”)



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Assessment

✓ Revisions to the current procedures will include:

1. Assessing whether or not the new program of study is a substantive change to the institution's scope of accreditation



Institution. A main campus and any additional locations of that main campus.



REMINDER:

Before Initiating a New Program
Of Study, Visit The ACICS Web
Site For The Most Current
Version Of The New Program
Application



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Assessment

- ✓ Is the program similar to current program offerings within the institution?
- ✓ Is the program at or below the credential level of other programs within the institution?
- ✓ Is the program being offered via similar delivery methods of other programs within the institution?



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Review and Approval
- ✓ Revisions to the current procedures will include:
2. Seeking and obtaining Council's approval to expand the institution's scope of accreditation prior to approval of the new program of study



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Review and Approval

Step X: Staff Review

Step X: Substantive Change Review Committee Review (SCRC)

Step X: Council Review

Step X: Approval of Expansion to Scope of Accreditation

Step X: Approval of New Program of Study

Step X: Quality Assurance Monitoring Visit



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Review and Approval – **SCENARIO 1**

Step 1: Staff Review

Step X: Substantive Change Review Committee Review (SCRC)

Step X: Council Review

Step X: Approval of Expansion to Scope of Accreditation

Step 2: Approval of New Program of Study

Step X: Quality Assurance Monitoring Visit

Approval within current turn-around of approximately 30 days



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Review and Approval – **SCENARIO 2**

Step 1: Staff Review

Step X: Substantive Change Review Committee Review (SCRC)

Step X: Council Review

Step X: Approval of Expansion to Scope of Accreditation

Step 2: Approval of New Program of Study

Step 3: Quality Assurance Monitoring Visit

Approval within current turn-around of approximately 30 days



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Review and Approval – **SCENARIO 3**

- Step 1: Staff Review
- Step 2: Substantive Change Review Committee Review (SCRC)
- Step 3: Council Review
- Step 4: Approval of Expansion to Scope of Accreditation
- Step 5: Approval of New Program of Study
- Step 6: Quality Assurance Monitoring Visit

Approval approximately 60-75 days



Institutional Changes

Procedural Changes

- Quality Assurance Monitoring Visits
- ✓ Revisions to the current procedures will include:
3. Conducting quality assurance monitoring visits



Campus Submits a New Program of Study

Staff, Substantive Change Review Committee (SCRC) and Council, if required, will conduct thorough, comprehensive reviews of all material submitted.

Scenario 1

The program is within the **institution's** and **campus'** scope of accreditation

The campus receives approval to initiate the new program of study

Scenario 2

The program is within the **institution's** scope of accreditation but **not** within the **campus'** scope of accreditation

The campus receives approval to initiate the new program of study

The campus is required to host a Quality Assurance Monitoring visit

Scenario 3

The program is not within the **institution's** scope of accreditation

Staff presents material to the SCRC with a request to expand the **institution's** scope of accreditation

The SCRC presents a recommendation of approval to the Council for an expansion of the institution's scope of accreditation

Council approves expansion of the institution's scope of accreditation

The campus receives approval to initiate the new program of study

The campus is required to host a Quality Assurance Monitoring visit



Campus and Institutional Effectiveness Plans- Proposed *Revisions*

- Section 3-1-111
- ✓ Amendments were proposed to include all plans that may be required of a campus and/or institution.



PLEASE NOTE: The Institutional Effectiveness Plans of centrally controlled institutions are only submitted annually. Campus Effectiveness Plans should only be submitted with the self-study or if directed by the Council.



TOPIC II: Final Changes to the Criteria

- Catalog- Appendix C**
- Accreditation of Individual Campuses-
*Effective January 1, 2014**
- Distance Education- Appendix H**
- Accreditation of International Institutions**
- General Education Requirements**
- Bylaws**



Catalog - *Final Revisions*

- Appendix C
- ✓ Amendments were made to eliminate redundancy to include information on appropriate catalog addenda and initial applicants and remove dated language.



Accreditation of Individual Campuses- Final Revision

- Sections 1-3-202, 2-1-700, 2-1-701, 2-1-702
- ✓ Amendments were made to allow the Council to award grants of different lengths to individual campuses based on merit within an institution.



PLEASE NOTE: All additional locations remain accredited under the accreditation of the main campus. The deferral of any campus within the institution does not affect the accreditation status of any other campus.



Accreditation of Individual Campuses- Final Revision

- ✓ Current procedure is that all additional locations have the same grant length as the main and the entire institution may be deferred due to issues at one campus
- ✓ New procedure is that grant lengths may differ and a deferral of one campus will not affect all
 - ✓ More responsive to differences between campuses
 - ✓ More flexibility in preparing for visits
 - ✓ ACICS to work with institutions on timing issues



Distance Education- Final *Revisions*

- Appendix H

- ✓ Amendments were made to reflect current practices in distance education.



PLEASE NOTE: There were some additional non-substantive changes made based on comments received from the field.



Accreditation of International Institutions- *Final Revisions*

- Sections 3-1-541, 3-1-411, 2-1-403, 3-1-515, 3-4-401, 3-5-401, 3-6-701, 3-7-700, 3-7-701 and Appendix D
 - ✓ Amendments were made to address the unique geographic, political and legal environments of international institutions that seek accreditation with ACICS.



PLEASE NOTE: The proposed amendments cover the areas of faculty preparation, standards of satisfactory progress, admissions, evaluation of separately accredited programs, specialized accreditation, library, instructional resources and technology.



General Education Requirements – Final Revisions

- Section 3-3-202

- ✓ Amendments were made to appropriately address education requirements for occupational associate's degree programs.



PLEASE NOTE: This change is being proposed to meet the requirement of a maximum of 15 semester hours of general education for occupational associate's degree programs.



Bylaws– Final Revisions

- Article IV- Elections, Terms, Vacancies, Removal, Resignations and Compensation
 - ✓ Amendments were made to allow a commissioner who is elected to the Office of Chair-elect in the final year of their term to be extended for an additional year for service as the Chair of the Council.





ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

LEARN CONNECT REFRESH

2013

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING

November 7-9 ☀ Jacksonville, Florida



Other Information

Questions?

Comments?

Please type in any questions or comments you might have! NOTE: You can also use the comment form at the end of the Memorandum to the Field to send in comments.





ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Available at www.ACICS.org

To view the Slides:

> Events/Workshops

>> Webinars

>>> AWARE

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