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ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Date: June 27, 2025

To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation Liaison Officers of ACCJC Member Institutions

From: Gohar Momjian, Vice President

Subject: Invitation to Field for Comment on Policy Revisions (First Read) and Notice of Adoption of Policy Revisions, Edits, and Deletion

The ACCJC Policy Committee oversees the development of new policies and changes to existing policies. Per the ACCJC [Policy on Commission Practices on Policy Review](#), Commission procedures generally provide that the Commission, in a two-meeting process, consider proposed policy changes and/or new policies. At the first meeting, new policies and/or policy changes are discussed, and modifications are made as appropriate, which is known as a First Reading. These policies are then circulated to ACCJC's member institutions and other interested parties for review and comment before presentation at the next scheduled Commission meeting for Second Reading and adoption.

Following its Bylaws, ACCJC invites comments from the field on the First-Read policy revisions. Therefore, we request that you publicize the information in this memo at your institution. **Comments must be received by Friday, September 12, 2025**, in order to be considered. Written comments may be emailed to accjc@accjc.org or submitted through the online [Comment Now](#) form. The ACCJC Policy Committee will review all comments received by the due date prior to the Commission's second reading and action at the January 2026 meeting. Additionally, anyone interested may provide their comments on the policies and the proposed changes directly to the Commission during its public comment session of the January 2026 Open Session.

First Read Policy Revisions for Public Comment

At its meeting June 4-5, 2025, the Commission considered the following policy changes for First Read and invites the field to make public comment on the following items:

Revision: Policy on Relations with Federal, State, and Other Accrediting Agencies

Proposed revisions add a framework for the policy elements and describe the Higher Education Act's program integrity triad and oversight roles of the federal government, states, and accrediting agencies. The policy articulates that ACCJC does not prescribe how a member institution meets its Standards and that the Commission reinforces the value of institutional autonomy through its emphasis on a mission-based approach to quality review. The policy clarifies that if federal or state government requirements appear to limit an institution's ability to meet any of ACCJC's Standards that the Commission provides flexibility for the institution to identify other ways to demonstrate its alignment with such Standards.

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

Notice of Adoption of Policy Revisions Second Read

During its June 2025 meeting, the Commission approved the following policy in its Second Read.

[Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance](#)

Notice of Adoption of Policy Revisions, Edits, Deletions approved by the Commission outside the normal two-meeting process

Per the ACCJC [Policy on Commission Practices on Policy Review](#), the Commission can also make institutional policy changes outside the normal two-meeting process under exceptional or time sensitive circumstances, when changes are needed in order to align with federal regulations, or for other extenuating circumstances. If the Commission makes these changes between regularly scheduled meetings, the changes shall be communicated to the field, including the reason for immediate action by the Commission.

Accordingly, on June 27, 2025, ACCJC notified the field in its [Updates from ACCJC June 2025 Commission Meeting](#) memo regarding revisions, edits, deletions, and reclassifications to Commission Policies and Standards in order to ensure continued alignment with the Higher Education Act of 1965, relevant federal regulations, and recent Department of Education guidance. The following is a summary of actions.

Edits

2024 Accreditation Standards

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

2024 Accreditation Standards with Review Criteria and Suggestions for Evidence

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

Eligibility Requirements

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

Deletions

Statement on the Benefits of Accreditation

Policy on Role of Accreditation Liaison Officers

Policy on Social Justice

Policy on Governing Boards for Military Institutions

Policy on Evaluation of Institutions in Multi-College & Multi-Unit District or Systems

Reclassification as guidelines, to be moved to Substantive Change Manual

Policy on Contractual Relationships with Non-Accredited Organizations

Policy on Credit for Prior Learning

Policy on Credit Hour, Clock Hour, and Academic Year

Principles of Good Practice in Overseas International Education Programs

Notification on Edits Approved by the Policy Committee (not action items)

In addition, the Policy Committee reviewed and approved the following edits to make corrections, improve readability and clarity of Commission policies, and to align policy language with the Commission's mission and values, as well as federal regulations. The following policy edits will go into effect immediately after the Commission meeting.

Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)

Policy on Preaccreditation

[Clean Version](#)

[Tracked Changes Version](#)