

Separately Accreditable Institutions Policy

Accreditation of an institution includes, besides the main campus, all off-campus sites. Off-campus sites include branch campuses and additional locations as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2 where postsecondary degree or non-degree programs are offered¹. A branch campus may pursue, or be directed by the Commission to pursue, its own stand-alone accreditation.

A branch campus will be deemed operationally independent and potentially accreditable as a separate institution when it meets these criteria:

1. Has sufficient financial and administrative independence from the parent institution to manage its own budget and financial information pertaining to its own operations.
2. Has a governing board with sufficient delegations of authority from the parent entity to ensure the institution's ongoing compliance with the Commission's Standards of Accreditation and policies.
3. Oversees personnel operations and policies related to hiring faculty and staff.
4. Has a full time chief administrative officer with delegated authorities sufficient to ensure effective operations and compliance with the Standards.
5. Is empowered to initiate, sustain, and review its own academic programs.
6. Has degree-granting authority licensed by the appropriate civic body in the state or jurisdiction in which it is located.
7. Meets or has the potential to meet the eligibility requirements of WSCUC.

To become a separately accreditable institution, the branch campus will be evaluated through the Eligibility process to determine the institution's readiness to seek initial accreditation.

Note: WSCUC accreditation does not extend to a parent entity (domestic or international) of an institution or any locations of the institution that were not included in the process of accreditation or approved subsequently though a structural or substantive change.

¹ WSCUC has adopted the Department of Education's definitions of branch campuses and additional locations under 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. (Substantive Change Manual, p. 12) Upon request from the Secretary, WSCUC will conform its designations of an institution's branch campuses and additional locations with the Secretary's if it learns its designations diverge and ensure that it does not accredit or grant candidacy to an institution comprising fewer than all of the programs, branch campuses and locations of an institution as certified for title IV participation by the Secretary, except with notice to and permission from the Secretary.