

# Institutions with Non-Educational Components Policy

WSCUC accredits educational institutions, not individual programs or courses. As stated in the 2023 Standards of Accreditation (the Standards), the accredited entity must have purposes and practices “appropriate for an institution of higher education” (CFR 1.1). When it is supported by or affiliated with another organization or is part of a larger organization whose purpose is not primarily higher education, the accredited entity must “clearly represent its academic goals, programs, requirements, services and costs” (CFR 1.3) and “operate with appropriate autonomy governed by an independent board or similar authority” (CFR 3.7).

Under this policy, the Commission applies the Standards only to the educational components of the larger organization. Its accreditation does not extend to the larger entity of which the educational entity is a part or to the non-educational functions of the larger entity. Accreditation covers only the educational enterprise, including the resources, systems, processes, plans, degree programs, and other elements that, taken together, compose the educational undertaking. This limitation on the scope of accreditation should be clear in all communications with the public in which the institution's accreditation is mentioned.

In addition, when the legal organization that includes the WSCUC-accredited entity has purposes and significant functions that are non-educational in nature, special issues may arise in applying the Standards.

In such an institution, the governing board may have duties and responsibilities that include both the educational and the non-educational aspects of the entity; the administrative structure may include positions that are partially or entirely non-educational in nature; and the financial records may mingle educational and non-educational assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses.

In these instances, the institution must be able to distinguish the educational (and thus accreditable) components of the entity from the non-educational components. The accredited entity must present financial information in a manner that allows the Commission and peer reviewers to evaluate the financial viability and management of the accredited entity under CFRs 1.3, 3.4, 3.5 and other relevant Criteria for Review. Generally, institutions are also expected to have audits prepared in such a way that the educational and non-educational aspects of the entity are separated. In addition, the Commission may need to evaluate the financial sustainability of the larger institution in order to assess the financial sustainability of the educational unit being accredited. (Also see [Related Entities Policy](#).)

The Commission may require that minutes and records of the actions of the governing board and committees of the governing board be organized in such a way that the educationally related actions and recommendations can be distinguished from those that are not. Job descriptions of employees, including faculty members, should be prepared in such a way that their educational duties can be distinguished from those that are not, in keeping with the relevant Standards.