

Accreditation Reviews for Institutions within a System Policy

When several operationally separate units are governed by a single board with a central system administration, the purposes of accreditation will more nearly be served by close coordination between the institution, the system's central administration, and the Commission during the period of self-analysis, the on-campus visit, and the Commission hearing. The guidelines that follow are designed to assist all concerned in arriving at a clearer understanding of institutional purposes and accomplishments, while preserving integrity and autonomy. This policy applies to both public and independent institutions.

Institutional Presentation

The institutional presentation may include a section prepared by the system administration that briefly describes system objectives, policies, and operations, and provides an analysis of educational effectiveness. Alternatively, this information may be provided in a separate system-wide policy and data portfolio.

Other details the system might provide include:

1. A description of the governing board.
2. A description of the procedure for the development and approval of new academic programs and major system policies; description of the system's academic program review process.
3. An outline of the budget process.
4. An explanation of relationships with, and authority of, agencies external to the system.
5. An explanation of relationships with, and delegation of, authority between the system office and the institutions.
6. Identification of system-wide groups, their organization and function. Such groups might include chief institutional administrators, as well as groups representing faculty, students, and alumni.
7. An appraisal of the effectiveness of the system in meeting its goals.
8. A forecast of major programmatic, enrollment, and capital trends for the system in the next five or ten years.

Institutional Appraisal

The institution includes in its institutional presentation, either in a separate section or otherwise, an appraisal of its identity as a system member and the effect of system policies on the achievement of institutional purposes.

Review Teams and Their Relationship to the System Office

In order for a review team to have the best possible understanding of the system and the system relationships that affect the institution being reviewed, the following are recommended:

1. The team chair may wish to visit the central office to meet system officials to become familiar with systems operations and issues.
2. When a visit to central headquarters is not possible, a representative of the system will be available to the team by telephone.
3. A copy of the final report and Commission action letter will be sent by the institution to the system head.
4. The system administration will make a report to the governing board following Commission action.