

Agreements with Unaccredited Entities Policy

An accredited institution bears final responsibility for ensuring the quality and integrity of all activities conducted in its name. When an accredited institution enters into an agreement with an unaccredited entity with the intent that the latter will provide services to the accredited institution, the accredited institution must ensure that the services provided by the unaccredited entity comply with the Commission's Standards and policies. The accredited institution cannot extend its accreditation status in any way to other entities or individuals. The accredited institution is responsible for periodically evaluating the efficacy and quality of the unaccredited entity's services and the outcomes of the contractual relationship.

When services by the unaccredited entity meet either of the following criteria, the accredited institution must obtain the Commission's approval through its substantive change process prior to the unaccredited entity's render of services to the accredited institution:

1. The unaccredited entity delivers 25% to 50% of the academic program content as measured by total program credit hours (US Department of Education, Title 34 CFR 602.22(a)(2)(vii)). For baccalaureate degree programs, this includes courses for the major and general education.
2. The unaccredited entity evaluates student work for the purpose of assigning grades and/or awarding credit for its academic program content.

Arrangements with unaccredited entities that provide 50% or more of academic services for at least one academic program will not be approved except under exceptional circumstances and in cases for which Title IV funds are not at issue. Under 34 CFR 668.5(3)(ii)(A), institutions are not eligible for Title IV funds for programs in which 50% or more of the program is provided by an unaccredited entity, regardless of the accreditor's approval.

Accredited institutions entering into agreements with unaccredited entities should refer to the [Agreements with Unaccredited Entities Guide](#) for additional definitions and decision criteria.

Revised by the Commission, February 2015

¹ Includes agreements with institutions of higher education that do not have institution-wide regional, national, or specialized accreditation recognized by the US Department of Education.

² Includes all degree and non-degree credit-bearing programs.