

# Change in Mission or Student Body

Substantive Change Application

Institution:       City, State:

Name of person completing this application:

Title:       Phone:       Email:

Date Submitted:

This completed form will constitute your request for approval of a substantive change. This form will be the basis for review of this application. The questions are designed to elicit brief, succinct, detailed information, rather than a narrative or references to extensive supporting documents. Do not attach other documents unless they are specifically requested in the questions and are germane to the request. Excluding attachments, the completed application form should be no more than 12–15 pages on a single classification of change. The total submission, including attachments, should not exceed 200 pages.  
  
If the person completing this application is not the CEO, CAO or the Accreditation Liaison Officer of the institution, it is understood that the person completing and submitting this application has consulted with and informed those individuals and has been authorized to submit this form on the institution's behalf.  
  
Please note: HLC plans to update its application forms annually, on or about September 1 of each year. However, if an application form was accessed more than 90 days prior to filing, please visit [hlcommission.org/change](https://www.hlcommission.org/change) to ensure that there have been no changes to the form in the intervening time.  
  
Submit the completed application as a single PDF file at [hlcommission.org/upload](https://www.hlcommission.org/upload). Select “Change Requests” from the list of submission options to ensure the application is sent to the correct HLC staff member.

## Part 1: General Questions

1. **Requested Change(s).** Concisely describe the change for which the institution is seeking approval.
2. **Does another characteristic of the change requested in this application also require prior HLC approval?** (Example: contractual arrangement, new academic program, new additional location, etc.)

No

Yes

If yes, please briefly explain the second type of substantive change requiring prior HLC approval and submit the relevant application form separately (or indicate the date on which it was submitted):

1. **Classification of Change Request.***Note: not every substantive change requires prior review and approval. Visit* [*hlcommission.org/change*](https://www.hlcommission.org/change) *to make certain that current HLC policy requires the institution to seek approval.*

An institution submitting more than one change request should complete multiple applications, one for each type of change. Change requests may be related to the following topics:

• [New academic programs](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-academic-programs.html), including degree and certificate programs

• [New Pell-eligible prison education programs](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-pell-eligible-prison-education-programs.html) (also referred to as PEPs)

• [Changes to existing academic programs](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-clock-credit-hours-program-content-and-length-of-term.html) involving credit/clock hours, method of delivery

or length of term

• Opening or closing [additional locations or branch campuses](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-off-campus-activities.html)

• [Provisional Plans](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/provisional-plans-and-teach-outs.html) (with or without Teach-Out Agreements, as applicable)

• [Teach-Out Agreement](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/provisional-plans-and-teach-outs.html) if closing a campus or additional location that provides 100% of at least   
 one program

• Access to HLC’s [Notification Program for Additional Locations](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-off-campus-activities.html)

• Initiating or expanding [distance education offerings](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-distance-or-correspondence-education.html)

• Initiating or expanding [correspondence education offerings](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-distance-or-correspondence-education.html)

• Offering programs through [competency-based education](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-competency-based-education.html) (credit-based, direct assessment

or hybrid)

• Initiating or modifying [contractual arrangements](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-contractual-arrangements.html)

• Change in [mission](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-mission-or-student-body.html)

• Change in [student body](https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change-mission-or-student-body.html)

1. **Special conditions.** Indicate whether any of the conditions identified below fit the institution (Yes or No). If Yes, explain the situation in the space provided.
2. Is the institution, in its relations with other institutional or specialized accrediting agencies, currently under or recommended for a negative status or action (e.g., withdrawal, probation, sanction, warning, show-cause, etc.)?
3. Is the institution now undergoing or facing substantial monitoring, special review, or financial restrictions from the U.S. Dept. of Education or other federal or state government agencies?
4. Has the institution’s senior leadership or board membership experienced substantial resignations or removals in the past year?
5. Is the institution experiencing other pressures that might affect its ability to implement the proposal (e.g., a collective bargaining dispute or a significant lawsuit)?
6. **Internal Approvals.** Attach documentation of internal (faculty, board) approvals that the institution has obtained for the proposed change. **All required approvals must be obtained before submitting the application to HLC.** If no approval is required, attach evidence that approval is not needed (e.g. applicable regulation, statute, or correspondence).
7. **State Approvals.** Attach documentation of state approvals that the institution has obtained for the proposed change. **All required approvals must be obtained before submitting the application to HLC.** If no approval is required, attach evidence that approval is not needed (e.g. applicable regulation, statute, or correspondence).
8. **System Approvals.** If applicable, attach documentation of system approval that the institution has obtained for the proposed change. **All required approvals must be obtained before submitting the application to HLC.** If no approval is required, attach evidence that approval is not needed (e.g. applicable regulation, statute, or correspondence). Check the box below if the institution is not part of a system.

Not Applicable

1. **Foreign Country Approval(s).** If applicable, attach documentation of foreign country approval(s) that the institution has obtained for the proposed change. Documentation must be written in or translated to English. **All required approvals must be obtained before submitting the application to HLC**. If no approval is required, attach evidence that approval is not needed. Check the box below if the proposed change is not related to offerings in a foreign country.

Not Applicable

1. **Specialized Accreditation.** Complete this section only if specialized accreditation is required for licensure or practice in program(s) covered by this change application.

The institution has already obtained the appropriate specialized accreditation. Attach a copy of the letter from the agency granting accreditation.

The institution has begun the process of seeking or plans to seek specialized accreditation. Specify the name of the agency and the timeline for completing the process in the space below. (If approval is a multi-stage process, the institution should contact the HLC staff liaison to discuss the timeline before submitting this change application form.)

The institution does not plan to seek specialized accreditation. Provide a rationale for not seeking this accreditation in the space below.

1. **Changes Requiring Visits.** This section is not for HLC-mandated visits such as additional location confirmation visits or campus evaluation visits.

Note: Complete this section only if the institution is already aware that the proposed change will need to be reviewed through a visit. The institution may submit Part 1 of the change request application to begin the process of scheduling a Change Visit or adding the proposed change to an already scheduled visit. The full application must be submitted at a later date. (If the institution is unsure whether a visit is required, leave this section blank and submit the full change application. HLC will advise the institution based on the information provided.)

1. Select the type of visit the institution is requesting:

Request to schedule a Change Visit.

Change Visits typically are scheduled approximately four months from the date an institution submits its change request. The full change application and other required materials will be due to HLC and the peer review team eight weeks before the visit date. See [Change Visit: Required Materials and Submission Procedures](https://www.hlcommission.org/change-visit) for more information.

Request to embed a Change Visit into an already scheduled visit.

**Note:** Such requests must be submitted at least six months before the visit date. HLC staff will determine whether to embed a Change Visit based on peer reviewer availability and the complexity of the scheduled visit, among other factors. HLC may not be able to accommodate all requests.

Specify type of visit and date scheduled:

The institution’s full change application should be submitted along with other materials required for the already scheduled visit.

1. Provide URLs to the institution’s Faculty/Staff Handbook and Catalog below. If the URLs are not available, please provide PDF versions of these documents when submitting other required materials prior to the visit.

Faculty/Staff Handbook URL:

Catalog URL:

## Part 2: Topic-Specific Questions

### Section A. Characteristics of the Change Requested

1. How will the proposed change impact the historical intent, mission, nature, culture, organization and people of the institution?
2. What change, if any, will occur in the mission statement and mission-related documents (vision, goals and purposes)?
3. What change, if any, will occur in the number, demographics and composition of the student body?
4. Specify the timeline used to implement the proposed change.

### Section B. Institution’s History

1. What experience, if any, has the institution had in changing its mission or student body?
2. What are the reasons and driving forces for the proposed change?

### Section C. Institutional Planning for Change of Mission or Student Body

1. What are the institution’s plans to implement and sustain the proposed change?
2. What impact might the proposed change in mission or student body have on challenges identified as part of or subsequent to the last HLC review and how has the institution addressed the challenge(s)?
3. What controls are in place to ensure that the information presented to all the constituencies in advertising, brochures and other communications will be accurate?
4. How does the institution ensure that financial planning and budgeting for the change are realistic (projected budgets, recent audit reports, revenue streams, cost of facilities, and projected facility and equipment costs)?

### Section D. Curriculum and Instructional Design

1. Describe the involvement of appropriately credentialed faculty and experienced staff necessary to accomplish the proposed change (curriculum development and oversight, evaluation of instruction, and assessment of learning outcomes).
2. What change, if any, will occur in the programs offered by the institution?

### Section E. Institutional Staffing, Faculty and Student Support

1. What impact will the proposed change have on institutional staffing and support services? Explain any increases in faculty and staff, listing any new, changed, or eliminated faculty or administrative positions.
2. What impact will the proposed change have on faculty workload and overall composition of the faculty (full-time or part-time)?
3. In light of the new mission or student body, describe how the institution will make learning resources and support services available to students (student support services, library resources, academic advising, and financial aid counseling)?

### Section F. Evaluation

1. Describe the expected outcomes of the proposed change and the process and measures the institution will use to document the achievement of its expected outcomes.