



TERMINATION OF AFFILIATION OR ACCREDITATION

Policy Change Approved on First Reading

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) approved this policy on first reading at its meeting on November 7–8, 2019.

Background

Institutions that are affiliated with HLC, whether as a candidate or accredited institution, may voluntarily choose to resign their affiliation at any time before HLC’s Board acts to withdraw Candidacy, deny Initial Accreditation or withdraw accreditation. The proposed policy change would shorten the waiting period before an institution that resigns its accreditation can once again seek HLC accreditation through the Eligibility Process. The shortened waiting period would be consistent with the time an institution that withdraws its application for Candidacy or Initial Accreditation currently is required to wait before reapplying. The change would also remove references to institutions submitting a letter of resignation to HLC. HLC is developing a standardized form that would take the place of the letter and help the streamline the resignation process. As a technical matter, because HLC's use of the term "affiliation" includes both candidacy and accreditation, the title of this policy will be re-examined prior to final adoption on second reading.

Comments Invited

HLC invites comments on this change before the Board takes final action at its meeting on February 27–28, 2020. Comments can be sent to policycomments@hlcommission.org. Comments are due by January 13, 2020.

Proposed Change

Wording that was deleted or revised is shown as strikethrough (~~old wording~~); new language, whether through addition or revision, is shown in bold (**new wording**).

Policy Title: Termination of Affiliation or Accreditation
Number: INST.B.30.010

Voluntary Resignation From Affiliation With the Commission

An institution affiliated with the Commission either as a candidate or as an accredited institution may voluntarily resign from that affiliation at any time. The resignation must be initiated by the legally designated governing body of the institution and conveyed to the Commission **according to procedures provided by the Commission**~~through a formal letter signed by the President of the institution. This letter may set an~~ effective date for such resignation ~~may not to~~ exceed one year from the date of ~~submission to the Commission the letter and provided that~~ such effective date ~~may is not be~~ more than eleven (11) years (the maximum interval for reaffirmation of accreditation) from the date of the last reaffirmation of accreditation or four (4) years from the date candidacy was awarded.

The Commission will provide the institution with written acceptance of the institution's resignation. -Once accepted, an institution's resignation is generally irrevocable.

~~The institution must meet all obligations of affiliation until the resignation becomes effective.~~ Within thirty (30) days of receiving **notice of voluntary resignation**~~this letter~~, the Commission issues a public disclosure notice that describes the resignation, including **the effective date of the resignation**~~resignation based on the closing of the institution~~, which is available to the public on the Commission's website. Within thirty (30) days the Commission also notifies the U.S. Department of Education and the appropriate state agency and other recognized accrediting agencies regarding the resignation.

The institution must meet all obligations of affiliation until the resignation becomes effective.

Voluntary resignation does not release an institution from past and current financial obligations to the Commission.

After resigning from membership with the Commission, an institution is ineligible for affiliation for a period of one year. If an institution seeks accredited status with HLC following a resignation, it must reapply through the Eligibility Process.

Policy History

Last Revised: November 2016

First Adopted: August 1987 and October 1988

Revision History: revised May 2002, February 2002, renumbered November 2010, April 2013, November 2016

Notes: Policies combined November 2012 – 1.5, 3.8.

Related Policies: INST.B.30.040 Public Disclosure, FDCR.B.10.010 Commission Approval of Institutional Teach-Out Arrangements