



DELETION OF UNNECESSARY POLICIES

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 February 25–26, 2021.

Background

The proposed policy change would eliminate the following policies, the substance of which are accounted for and adequately covered elsewhere in HLC’s policies:

- Determining Institutional Quality (INST.A.10.010). Several other policies including, for example, those related to the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, Candidacy and Accreditation provide institutions with adequate notice of how institutional quality will be judged. Clear requirements to achieve candidacy or accreditation status are also covered.
- Institutional Conformity with HLC Requirements (INST.A.10.030). HLC articulates circumstances under which an institution may be assigned a range of consequences ranging from routine and special monitoring up to and including sanctions, Show-Cause Orders and withdrawal of membership for noncompliance with various HLC requirements. At the same time, specific consequences may be articulated within the context of a specific type of requirement, as in the case, for example, of administrative probation for violations of HLC’s Obligations of Membership.
- Financial Panels (INST.F.20.020). The substance of this policy was incorporated in its entirety as part of a [revision to HLC’s policy on Routine Monitoring and Data Collection \(INST.F.10.010\)](#), which the Board adopted on second reading at its February meeting.

Comments Invited

HLC invites comments on this change before the Board takes final action at its meeting on June 24–25, 2021. Comments can be sent to policycomments@hlcommission.org. Comments are due by May 21, 2021.

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: Determining Institutional Quality~~

~~Number:~~ **INST.A.10.010**

~~HLC shall determine institutional quality using Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices.~~

~~HLC's Board of Trustees shall grant institutions one of two statuses: accreditation or candidate for accreditation (candidacy) based on that determination.~~

Policy Number Key

Section INST: Institutional Processes

Chapter A: Implementation of HLC Criteria and Requirements

Part 10: General

Last Revised: February 2012

First Adopted: August 1992

Revision History: February 2011, February 2012, effective January 2013

Notes: Former policy number 1.1, 2013 – 1.1(a).

Related Policies:

~~Policy Title: Institutional Conformity With HLC Requirements~~

~~Number:~~ **INST.A.10.030**

~~When the HLC discovers that an accredited or candidate institution is not following an Assumed Practice, HLC initiates a review, in accordance with its policy and procedure, to determine whether the institution remains in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. If the institution is found to be not meeting the Criteria, including any Core Component, HLC may proceed to act under any applicable policy.~~

~~HLC also requires that the institution take action to bring its practice into conformity with the Assumed Practices. An accredited institution that finds through its own processes that its practice is departing from the~~

~~Assumed Practices should take immediate steps to correct the deficiency; it is not required to disclose its finding to HLC provided that it moves quickly to initiate a remedy.~~

~~HLC may also re-examine, as specified in HLC policies, any candidate or accredited institutions' ability to meet Eligibility Requirements.~~

Policy Number Key

Section INST: Institutional Processes

Chapter A: Implementation of HLC Criteria and Requirements

Part 10: General

Last Revised: November 2020

First Adopted: February 2003

Revision History: June 2006, June 2011, November 2020

Notes: Formerly policy number 1.1(c)1, 2013 – 1.1(d), 1.1(f).

Related Policies:

Policy Title: Financial Panels

Number: INST.F.20.020

The purpose of a Financial Panel is to review institutions' financial indicators based on their annual submission of financial ratios. The Financial Panel may request additional documentation from institutions for review when appropriate. The Panel may request that institutions address financial and related concerns in their next Self Study and visit process. The Panel may recommend for action by the Institutional Actions Council additional institutional monitoring through any process provided for in HLC policy and procedure.

A Financial Panel is comprised of two or more financial professionals selected by the staff from the Peer Review Corps or from member institutions. The Panel may conduct its review of actions in a scheduled meeting or by any means that allows for synchronous or asynchronous communication.

Policy Number Key

Section INST: Institutional Processes

Chapter F: Maintenance and Monitoring

Part 20: Intermittent Monitoring

Last Revised:

First Adopted: June 2008

Revision History:

Notes: Policies combined November 2012—2.2(e), 2.2(e)1

Related Policies: INST.F.10.010 Routine Monitoring