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## Public Disclosure of Information About Affiliated Institutions

The following policy governs the release of information regarding the status of affiliated colleges and universities by institutions and by the Commission.

### 1. Release of Information by Institutions Regarding Their Accreditation Following Commission Action

At the conclusion of the evaluation process institutions are encouraged to make publicly available information about their accreditation status including the findings of team reports and any obligations or requirements established by Commission action, as well as any plans to address stated concerns. Because of the potential to be misleading, institutions are asked not to publish or otherwise disseminate excerpts from these materials.

While the Commission does not ordinarily release copies of studies, progress such

information in question or is otherwise made  
related inquiries may issue a revised

disseminates information which  
on status, institution will be notified and  
correcting any misleading information it  
not limited to the accreditation status of the  
reports, the Commission actions with  
to do so in an immediate and timely way  
will release a public statement in  
able providing confirmation. This  
is sent by the Commission to the

## 2. Published Statement on Accredited Status

The Commission asks that one of the following statements be used for disclosing on its website and in catalogues, brochures, advertisements, etc., that the institution is accredited.

An institution may wish to include within its website, catalogue or other material a statement which will give the consuming public a better idea of the meaning of regional accreditation. When that is the case, the Commission requests that the following statement be used in its entirety:

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges,) Inc.

Accreditation of an institution of higher education by the Commission indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

Accreditation by the Commission

The shorter statement that an institution may choose for an institution accredited status follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.).

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

New England Commission of Higher Education  
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 425 7785  
E-Mail: info@neche.org

Accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education has reference to the institution as a whole. Therefore, statements like “fully accredited” or “this program is accredited by the Commission” or “this degree is accredited by the Commission” are incorrect and should not be used.

3. Published Statement or Candidate Status

An institution granted Candidate for Accreditation (Candidate Status) must use the following statement whenever it makes reference to its affiliation with the New England Commission of Higher Education:

\_\_\_\_\_ College (University) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.). Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution is in the process of meeting the standards for accreditation.

4. Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions by the Commission

The Commission publishes the following information about member and candidate institutions on its website:

Name of the institution

The date of initial accreditation and/or when candidacy was granted

Accreditation status (member or candidate)

Address

Phone and fax numbers

CEO name and title

an official comment, the comment will be made available by the Commission

For institutions whose candidacy or accreditation has been withdrawn, the date of, and reasons for withdrawal

The Commission recognizes that, to be fully understood, information about the accredited status of institutions must be placed within the context of the policies and procedures of the New England Commission of Higher Education. In responding to inquiries, the Commission will endeavor to do so.

The Commission may also post on its website a public statement about an action taken regarding a member or candidate institution when further information about the action and the Commission's reasons for taking the action would be helpful to members of the public.

Adverse actions (placement of an institution on probation, denial of candidacy accreditation, and withdrawal of candidacy or accreditation) are communicated when the decision becomes final (i.e., when the institution does not appeal or when the appeals process is completed and the decision is upheld). The Commission, at its discretion, may make an adverse action public before the decision is final or the appeal is completed. In so doing, the Commission will provide information about the appeal process.

## 5. Public Disclosure of Institutional Actions

Within 30 days after the action on accreditation status is taken, the Commission will notify the Secretary of Education, state higher education officers, appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public. The Commission will also make public on its website the basis for these decisions. Such actions include:

A final decision to:

Grant candidacy or accreditation

Continue an institution in candidacy or accreditation

Deny or withdraw the candidacy or accreditation of an institution

Issue a Notation

Place an institution on probation

Approve substantive change (e.g., moving to a higher degree level)

Within 10 days of receipt of notification by the institution, the Commission will notify the Secretary of Education, state higher education officials, appropriate accrediting agencies, and, upon request, the public if a candidate or accredited institution:

decides to voluntarily withdraw from affiliation with the Commission

lets its candidacy or accreditation with the Commission lapse