

Accreditation Standard Revisions

Approved for 30-day comment period
at the October 2025 TRACS Accreditation Commission Meeting

Standard 1.1

Current Wording

1.1 The institution has a Faith Statement which is readily available and included in appropriate official publications. (IER)

Proposed Wording

1.1 The institution has a Faith Statement which is **approved and periodically reviewed by the Board**, readily available and included in appropriate official publications. (IER)

*Rationale: Standards 2.1 and 3.1 include the requirement that the Board review those items, making it part of the IER and requiring evidence of review from the start of the application process. Standard Area 1 separates the requirement for a Faith Statement and the approval and review process into two separate Standards. Adding this phrase eliminates the need for Standard 1.2 and adds uniformity to the Standards. **Final adoption of this revision would eliminate Standard 1.2.***

Standard 9.3

Current Wording

9.3 At least 25% of courses in each major at the undergraduate level are taught by faculty having a terminal degree.

Proposed Wording

9.3 At least 25% of courses in each major at the **Baccalaureate** level are taught by faculty having a terminal degree.

Standard 17.5

Current Wording

17.5 Distance Education and Correspondence Education: The institution demonstrates that programs and courses offered via Distance Education and Correspondence Education are in compliance with the Federal definition of Distance Education and Correspondence Education (Title IV funds are available for Distance Education only):

Distance Education Definition: Education that uses one or more of the technologies listed to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to

support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include the internet; one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices; audio conferencing; or video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed above. (see TRACS Accreditation Standard 5.2)

Correspondence Education Definition: Education provided through one or more courses by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor; interaction between the instructor and the student is limited, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student; correspondence courses are typically self-paced; and correspondence education is not distance education. (IER) - §602.3

[NOTE: This definition for Correspondence Education is provided to ensure that the institution's Distance Education meets the definition of Distance Education and does not fall to the level of Correspondence Education. Correspondence Education is not reviewed by TRACS and is not included in an institution's scope of recognition with TRACS.]

Proposed Wording

17.5 Distance Education: The institution demonstrates that programs and courses offered via Distance Education are in compliance with the following definition.

Distance Education: Education that uses one or more of the technologies listed to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include the internet; one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices; audio conferencing; or **other media**, if used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed above. (see TRACS Accreditation Standard 5.2) (IER) - §602.3

By contrast, Correspondence Education is education that is provided through one or more courses by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor. Interaction between the instructor and the student is limited, is not **necessarily** regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student. **Correspondence Education** courses are typically self-paced. **Correspondence Education** is not **Distance Education**.

This definition for Correspondence Education is provided to ensure that the institution's Distance Education meets the definition of Distance Education and does not fall to the level of Correspondence Education. Correspondence Education is not reviewed by TRACS and is not included in an institution's scope of recognition with TRACS. Title IV Funds are available for Distance Education and not Correspondence Education.

Standard 17.8

Current Wording

17.8 Public Information: The institution makes the following information available to students and the public through the institution's Catalog(s), website and/or other methods: academic calendar, grading policies, refund policies, admission policies, program requirements, and information regarding tuition and fees. (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)vii

Proposed Wording

17.8 Public Information: The institution makes the following information available to students and the public through the institution's Catalog(s), website, **and other methods**: academic calendar, grading policies, refund policies, admission policies, program requirements, and information regarding tuition and fees. **Advertising and recruitment materials must accurately represent the institution's practices and policies.** (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)vii

Standard 17.9

Current Wording

17.9 Advertising and Recruitment Materials: The institution's advertising and recruitment materials must accurately represent the institution's practices and policies. (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)vii

Proposed Wording

17.9 **Admissions and Recruitment: The institution has clearly established guidelines for admissions decisions which are consistently applied. Recruitment activities are conducted in accordance with established guidelines.** (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)vii

Standard 17.12

Current Wording

17.12 Title IV Participation: The institution maintains and demonstrates compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended. (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)x, §602.27(a)6,7

In evaluating the institution's compliance with Title IV program responsibilities, the TRACS Accreditation Commission will rely on documentation forwarded to TRACS by the U.S. Secretary of Education supported by letters of authorization on file from relevant agencies indicating certification of eligibility and Federal Aid audits.

Proposed Wording

Title IV Participation: The institution maintains and demonstrates compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended. **The institution monitors and maintains acceptable cohort default rates and responds appropriately to program reviews.** (IER) - §602.16(a)(1)x, §602.27(a)6,7

In evaluating the institution's compliance with Title IV program responsibilities, the TRACS Accreditation Commission will rely on documentation forwarded to TRACS by the U.S. Secretary of Education supported by letters of authorization on file from relevant agencies indicating certification of eligibility and Federal Aid audits.