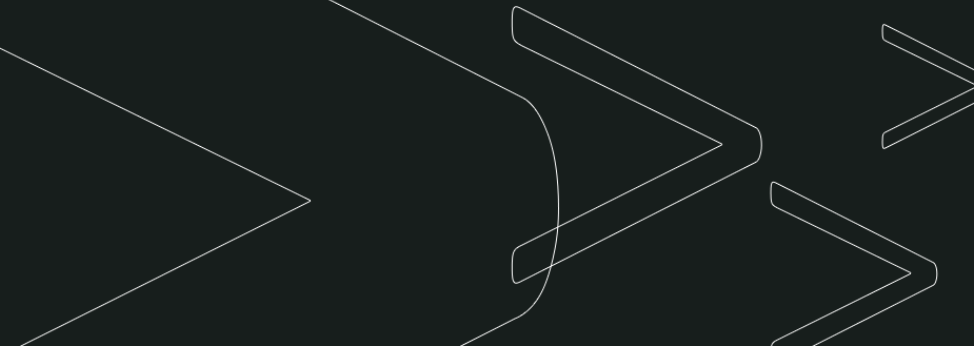


Proposed Revisions to Part Two,
Policies and Procedures,
DEAC Accreditation Handbook

June 15, 2020 DEAC Webinar
Series



Rationale for Changes

- To refine and clarify existing procedures
- To add requirements for USDE recognition



Discerning Changes from Clarifications

- Changes to a policy are indicated in **red underlined font**.
- Revisions to clarify existing procedures are indicated in **blue font**

Key Areas for Review

- initiating immediate adverse action, without prior notice, if an institution's violation of DEAC standards or policies warrant such immediate action;
- requiring institutions to notify current and prospective students of an adverse action or show cause order within seven business days;
- extending the maximum time period to demonstrate compliance with DEAC accreditation standards from 12 months to two years;



Adverse Action

- Section X.F

The Commission may take immediate Adverse Action, without prior notice or issuance of a Show Cause Directive to withdraw accreditation from an institution or program if it determines, in its reasonable discretion, that an institution's or program's violations of DEAC standards and/or policies warrant such immediate action.



Notice to Students


- Section XVI.A. 2 & 3

Within seven business days following its receipt of the show Cause Directive from DEAC, the institution must also notify its students and prospective students that it is operating under a show Cause Directive (and the scope of the directive) by publication on its website and by individual written notice to enrolled students.

The same notice requirement is also in effect for an adverse action.

Maximum Timeframe

Current language, Section VII.B.3: The maximum time period for achieving compliance with DEAC accreditation standards is 12 months



New language, Section IX.C: The maximum Show Cause Remediation Period may not exceed two years (unless the Commission extends the period for “good cause” as defined below).

Key Areas for Review

- an expansion of the substantive change list and extension of institutional options in the substantive change approval process;
- procedures for institutions certified by DEAC to participate in Title IV to add competency-based or direct assessment programs;
- refinements to the appeal process and changes to the authority of the appeals panel; and
- new requirements for institutions engaging in a teach-out agreement



Substantive Changes

Certain substantive changes may be delegated to accreditation staff for prior approval:

- Addition of related new programs
- Change of name
- Change of location
- A change in the way an institution measures student progress, including whether the institution measures progress in clock hours or credit hours...
- A substantial increase in the number of clock hours
- Entering into a written arrangement where an institution or organization not certified to participate in the title IV HEA programs offers more than 25% and up to 50% of an educational program

Adding competency-based or direct assessment programs for title IV participating institutions (XIX.E.12.d)

- Experimental sites initiative at USDE has been suspended
- All title IV, HEA programs may offer competency-based or direct assessment programs to their program participation agreement with accreditor approval

REMEMBER – regular and substantive interaction rules apply

Change to Appeals Panel Authority

- ~~4. Reverse: The Appeals Panel may reverse a decision of the Commission if it finds that the Commission's decision, in light of the entire record, was not supported by the record or was clearly erroneous. A decision to reverse an action of the Commission will state the specific bases for the decision to reverse. A decision to reverse a withdrawal of accreditation will direct the Commission to set aside its decision to withdraw and to reinstate the accreditation of the institution as it was before the withdrawal decision. A decision to reverse an action to deny accreditation directs the Commission to award a specific grant of accreditation for a term determined by the Appeals Panel.~~



Teach Out

- The teach-out institution must demonstrate
 - Experience, resources and support services
 - Capacity to carry out its mission and meet all obligations to existing students
 - Provide access to the program and services without requiring a move or travel for substantial distances or durations
 - Provide students with information on additional charges, if any

A few final notes:

- Definitions added to clarify meaning of final action, effective date, record and adverse action
- Appeals Procedures enhanced through the additional clarifications on the appeals process
- Arbitration procedures revised to align with American Arbitration Association (AAA) procedures



▼ Questions?