

**CHANGE in LOCATION
COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT FORM**

# Instructions

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission requires all institutions seeking a change of location (however close to the original site) to obtain prior approval from the Commission and undergo an on-site visit. Prior approval serves two main purposes: (1) It provides institutions an opportunity to critically reflect on its operations, processes, and procedures prior to changing locations and (2) it provides the on-site team with a comprehensive overview of the institution, its mission, and its processes that are integral to delivering quality distance education.

The questions on this Compliance Assessment Form are designed to assist on-site team evaluators in determining whether institutions continue to meet the intent of DEAC’s accreditation standards when changing locations. Evaluators are not limited to the questions on this rating form. This rating form is for the evaluator’s use only. Evaluators do not need to send this rating form to DEAC.

DEAC evaluators decide whether institutions meet, partially meet, or do not meet accreditation standards. For any ratings of “partially meets” or “does not meet,” the evaluator must provide a “required action” that instructs the institution on what it needs to provide in order to demonstrate compliance with the identified standard. Evaluators should be careful to review institutions based only on the accreditation standards. Any recommendations beyond the scope of the accreditation standards should be provided under suggestions.

Evaluators should refer to the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook and Guide for Self-Evaluation* for any further clarification on institutional requirements.

# Institution Information

Name of Institution: Name of institution

Date of Visit: Date of on-site visit

Name of Evaluator: Evaluator name

Position on Team: Position on team

Onsite Team Chair: Name of onsite team chair

Date Report Due to Chair: Date report is due

# Accreditation Standards

Standard II: Governance

1. **Maintaining Eligibility for Accreditation**

The institution maintains its eligibility for accreditation and is properly licensed, authorized, exempted, or approved by all applicable state education institutional authorizations (or their equivalent for non-U.S. institutions). Exemptions from state law are supported by state-issued documentation or by statutory language for that jurisdiction.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how it is properly licensed, authorized, exempted, or approved by all applicable state education institutional authorizations (or their non-U.S. institutional equivalent)? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution provide its DEAC State Authorization Form and documentation of its state licensures and authorizations? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution describe any exemptions from state law that it has determined, and did it provide the state-issued documentation or statutory language used to determine its exemption? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard II.D. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

Standard XIV: Finance[[1]](#footnote-1)

* 1. **Financial Practices**

The institution provides on an annual basis complete, comparative financial statements covering its two most recent fiscal years’ financial statements that are audited and prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States of America or the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In the event the operations of the institution are supported in whole or in part by a parent company or a third party, the Commission may require audited financial statements from the parent or third party to demonstrate that the entity possesses sufficient financial resources to provide the institution continued financial sustainability. If the institution’s financial performance is included within the parent corporation’s statements, a supplemental schedule for the individual institution is appended to the parent statement, and inter-company transactions are clearly identified and defined. The institution’s budgeting processes demonstrate that current and future budgeted operating results are sufficient to allow the institution to accomplish its mission and goals.

**[Note:** Throughout this Standard,compliance assessment questions refer only to audited comparative financial statements to align with the Standard as written. See the footnote for Standard XIV, regarding continued allowable submission of reviewed comparative financial statements through mid-2026 and adjust findings feedback accordingly].

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution adequately describe how it demonstrates financial responsibility?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution maintain sufficient resources to meet its financial obligations and provide quality educational offerings and service to students? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution adequately describe how the change in location impacted the institution's financial position and, if applicable, describe any resultant plans for future improvement of the institution’s financial position? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XIV.A. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

1. **Financial Stability and Sustainability**

Financial statements must reflect that the institution has sufficient resources to meet the institution’s financial obligations to provide quality instruction and service to its students for the full period of each student’s enrollment, consistent with the institution’s program representations.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately describe its commitment to fulfilling all obligations to students in the event that a teach-out is required? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution use cost control and analysis systems to verify that it maintains sufficient current assets to fund a teach-out of students? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XIV.C. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

Standard XV: Facilities and Records Maintenance

1. **Records Protection**

The institution’s financial and administrative records, as well as students’ financial, educational, and personal information, are securely and confidentially maintained in accordance with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates and with professional requirements.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate procedures for maintaining financial and administrative records, as well as students’ financial, educational, and personal information?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution follow proactive steps to safeguard the security and confidentiality of financial and administrative records, as well as students’ financial, educational, and personal information? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Do the institution’s record maintenance and protection procedures comply with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates, as well as with professional requirements? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Are physical records adequately secured on site?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Are digital records adequately secured and backed up to minimize data loss?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XV.A. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

1. **Record Retention**

The institution’s financial, administrative, and student educational records are retained in accordance with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates. The institution implements a comprehensive document retention policy. Transcripts are readily accessible and are maintained permanently in either print or digital form.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for retaining financial, administrative, and student records in accordance with the laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution state how long financial records are maintained? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution state how long administrative records are maintained? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution state how long student records are maintained?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution implement an adequate comprehensive document retention policy? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Did the institution identify those responsible for ensuring the proper retention of financial, administrative, and student records?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution conduct regular internal audits for compliance with all applicable federal and state laws? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Is transcript information readily accessible and permanently maintained in order for the institution to produce an official transcript in a timely manner? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XV.B. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

1. **Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies**

The institution’s primary facility is located in a professional, institution-branded space authorized by local authorities for mixed use or commercial use. The institution maintains a written facilities plan and budget allocations to maintain facilities, equipment, and supplies to support its educational offerings, student support services, and administrative operations on a sustainable basis. Buildings, workspaces, and equipment comply with local fire, building, health, and safety regulations.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s primary facility located in a professional, institution-branded space which is authorized by local authorities for mixed use or commercial use?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Do the institution’s facilities, equipment, and supplies support its educational offerings, student support services, and administrative operations on a sustainable basis?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Is the institution’s technical infrastructure adequate to support its educational offerings, student support services, and administrative operations on a sustainable basis? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution have a sufficient plan for maintenance that includes upgrades of its facilities, equipment, and supplies? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution have adequate financial resources and budgets to maintain and upgrade its facilities and equipment?  |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Do the institution’s building, workspace, and equipment comply with local fire, building, health, and safety regulations? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XV.C. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

1. **Protection of Physical Sites and Virtual Infrastructure**

The institution’s physical location(s) and virtual infrastructure are adequate to secure financial, administrative, and student educational records; are reasonably accessible; and are adequately protected in accordance with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates. An adequate disaster response and recovery plan is in place that includes mitigation of risks, i.e., at a minimum, the ability to sustain and support continuing academic operations, the protection of student information consistent with applicable law, and the mitigation of other risks presented by physical, environmental, cybersecurity, force majeure, and other reasonably foreseeable threats.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s physical location adequate to secure physical financial, administrative, and student educational records, while ensuring that they are reasonably accessible for use? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Is the institution’s virtual infrastructure adequate to secure digital financial, administrative, and student educational records, while ensuring that they are reasonably accessible for use? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Are institutional records adequately protected in accordance with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates and in response to foreseeable physical or cybersecurity risks? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution have appropriate disaster response and recovery procedures for its physical and environmental location(s)? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| Does the institution’s disaster response and recovery plan include contingencies to sustain and support continued academic operations and protect student information, consistent with applicable law? |[ ] [ ] [ ]
| **Standard XV.D. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence provided prior to and during the on-site visit.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or a core component.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are those recommendations that are not required to meet minimum accreditation standards but are provided to the institution as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

1. The implementation and submission timeframe of Standard XIV.A.’s requirement that institutions provide audited comparative financial statements (reviewed comparative financial statements will no longer be accepted) is as follows: For institutions with fiscal years ending between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, audited financial statements are due by December 31, 2025. For institutions with fiscal years ending between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, audited financial statements are due by June 30, 2026. In both cases, the Commission is waiving the requirement for comparative statements and accepting audits of one fiscal year. Future submissions of audited statements (submitted after June 30, 2026) must be prepared on a comparative basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)