

**ENGAGING in INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**COMPANION SELF-EVALUATION REPORT**

**REPORT TEMPLATE**

Background

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission requires all institutions to compete a Self-Evaluation Report when seeking accreditation. The process of self-evaluation serves two main purposes: (1) It provides an institution an opportunity to critically reflect on its operations, processes, and procedures at regular intervals and (2) it provides the on-site team with a comprehensive review of the institution, its mission, and its processes that are integral to delivering quality distance education.

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission’s accreditation process is grounded on the fundamental principle of peer review that enables faculty and administrative staff from within higher education to make recommendations essential to ensuring the quality of learning and institutional operations for all students. The process is guided by transparent standards that are established collaboratively by professional peers and member institutions.

The on-site visit provides an opportunity for evaluators to meet with key staff members, faculty/instructors, principal managers, outside accountants, governing board members, and advisory council members. The evaluators verify that the institution is meeting its mission and can demonstrate successful student achievement.

The on-site evaluators’ reports inform the Commission of whether the institution meets, partially meets, or does not meet each of the DEAC accreditation standards and core components. Approximately four to six weeks after the on-site visit, the Chair’s Report is provided to the institution for response. Both the Chair’s Report and the institution’s response are submitted to the Commission for review prior to final decision making.

The Chair of the on-site team is responsible for guiding the completion of the on-site evaluation in accordance with the Commission’s processes and procedures and ensures that evaluators complete their tasks during the on-site evaluation.

**Note:** This report template is for review of an institution’s ongoing international activities via the institution’s Engaging in International Activities Companion Self-Evaluation Report. A separate report template is available for review of an institution’s proposed international activities via the institution’s Engaging in International Activities Post Approval Report.

**Self-Evaluation Report** **(SER**)
The Self-Evaluation Report tells a story about the institution, beginning with its history and mission and then focusing on its evolution and future. Institutions have the opportunity to present their passion for serving students and providing educational options that will shape future generations. Institutions craft their story using the Self-Evaluation Report template as a guide while demonstrating how their policies and procedures meet DEAC’s accreditation standards.

Instructions

It is the Evaluators’ responsibility to make an initial determination whether the institution meets DEAC’s Accreditation Standards and core components and to complete the following report template.

Findings guidelines:

* **Meets Standard:** The institution demonstrates compliance with the intent of the accreditation standard or core component.
* **Partially Meets Standard:** The institution was able to demonstrate compliance with some, but not all, of the elements contained in the accreditation standard or core component.
* **Does Not Meet Standard:** The institution was unable to demonstrate compliance with a majority of the elements contained in the accreditation standard or core component.

The evaluator should provide clear and concise descriptions within the “Comments” section of the report to support each determination that a standard or core component is met, partially met, or not met. If an institution meets the accreditation standard, the evaluator may want to consider highlighting within the Comments section the processes and procedures the institution followed that enabled it to demonstrate compliance. If an institution partially meets or does not meet a standard, the evaluator needs to adequately describe why the decision was reached and refer, as appropriate, to narrative sections and exhibits within the SER that support the determination.

The evaluator must also indicate the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the partially met or unmet accreditation standard. Each required action must be tied back to an accreditation standard or core component.

For required actions, the evaluator should begin each statement with, “[Insert Name of Institution] needs to [insert the action necessary by the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standard.]”

As part of the peer review process, it is important that institutions receive suggestions for improving their offerings and support services related to the administration of Title IV programs. The accreditation process allows the institution to benefit from an external review and perspective. The evaluator is encouraged to provide suggestions within the report. 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.

For suggestions, the evaluator should begin each statement with, “[Insert Name of Institution] may want to consider [insert the recommendation for improvement.]”

**Report Submission:** The evaluator emails the completed report to the Chair, DEAC staff observer, and DEAC director of accreditation two weeks following the on-site visit. Once all information is received, DEAC notifies the business evaluator to appropriately dispose of all institutional materials.

Helpful Hints

* The evaluator’s report should be objectively written in third person, narrative format using declarative sentences and simple verbs. The report should avoid broad generalities and speculative views.
* The evaluator’s report represents an accurate, concise, factual, and thorough presentation of the individual findings during the on-site visit. The evaluator clearly communicates findings to the Chair by providing evidence.
* When making a determination whether the institution meets, partially meets, or does not meet accreditation standards, the evaluator must include evidence of documents reviewed on site or analyzed in the Self-Evaluation Report and Exhibits that led to the finding. Include specific examples.
* The evaluator’s report documents attributes and deficiencies using language found in the accreditation standards and core components. All deficiencies must be documented.
* The evaluator’s report should not require an institution to implement a new program or procedure in order to demonstrate compliance with a partially met or unmet accreditation standard. The evaluator’s report states the required action necessary to provide evidence or demonstrate compliance. The institution bears responsibility for demonstrating compliance with DEAC’s accreditation standards.
* The evaluator’s report accurately presents comments, required actions, and suggestions using direct quotations, references, data, and examples from the on-site visit.

The evaluator’s report does not make recommendations to the Commission concerning the overall accreditation of the institution.

DEAC Engaging in International Activities Report (Confidential)

Name of Institution: Name of Institution

Date of On-site Visit: Date of On-site Visit

Submitted By: Evaluator Name

Date of Report: Date of Report

# Accreditation Standards

Standard I: Institutional Mission

1. **Description of the Mission**

The institution’s mission communicates its purpose and its commitment to providing quality distance educational offerings appropriate to the level of study offered. The mission establishes the institution’s identity within the educational community and guides the development of its educational offerings.

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| **Standard I.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. **Review and Publication of the Mission**

The institution’s administrative and academic leadership team, as well as representative members of the institution’s faculty, shall review the mission on a regular basis to determine whether the mission should be amended and how the institution is performing against the objectives set by its mission statement. The published mission statement is readily accessible to students, faculty, staff, other stakeholders, and the public.

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| **Standard I.B. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard III: Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

1. **Strategic Planning**

The institution implements a strategic plan utilizing a systematic process for the achievement of goals that support its mission. The institution’s planning processes involve all areas of the institution’s operations in developing strategic initiatives and goals by evaluating external and internal trends. Data is used to identify areas of weakness and opportunities for improvement, development, and growth. The plan helps institutions set priorities, manage resources, and set goals for future performance.

The strategic plan addresses, at a minimum, finances, academics, technology, admissions, marketing, personnel, and institutional sustainability and includes measurable action plans that lead to mission achievement. The plan identifies the individuals responsible, timelines for completion, and the financial resources required. The institution reviews the strategic plan at least annually and reports achievement of progress to its stakeholders.

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| **Standard III.B. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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1. **Institutional Effectiveness**

The institution develops a plan and implements a systematic and ongoing process to evaluate the content and delivery of its educational programs, its provision of student support services, and the effectiveness of its supporting infrastructure and staff operations. The institution engages in sound research practices; collects and analyzes quantitative and qualitative evidence about its effectiveness; and develops and implements action plans that are used to improve operations, academic achievement, educational technologies, and student services.

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| **Standard III.C. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard VIII: Academic Delivery

1. **Supporting Academic Technologies**

The institution uses technology appropriate to its modality and institutional context to support the delivery of its educational programs. This includes not only technology that delivers course materials and content, but also technology that (1) supports communications between students and faculty; (2) monitors student progress and achievement; (3) provides access to other academic resources, such as online libraries and third-party programs; (4) offers readily accessible channels for students to communicate questions, complaints, and concerns to applicable faculty or institutional staff; (5) protects the integrity of academic programs, testing, student work, and student communications; and (6) otherwise supports the collection of data necessary for the institution to evaluate its operations and performance.

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| **Standard VIII.B. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard IX: Academic Leadership and Staffing

1. **Academic Leadership**

The institution provides academically qualified and experienced leadership to direct and oversee the effective delivery of its educational offerings using distance learning models. Academic leadership is responsible for the quality of program and student outcomes, as well as for the selection, training, continued quality, and development of faculty.

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| **Standard IX.A. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard XI: Recruitment and Enrollment

1. **Student Recruitment**

The institution demonstrates that ethical processes and procedures are followed throughout the recruitment of prospective students. The qualifications and experience of the institution’s recruitment personnel are aligned to identified roles and responsibilities. Recruitment personnel are trained in the tasks and expectations of their positions. Authorized recruitment personnel are provided with appropriate materials to perform their tasks and are routinely monitored to ensure compliance with laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates, the DEAC Code of Ethics, and institutional policy. The institution takes full responsibility for the actions of its recruitment personnel, whether internal or third party.

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| **Standard XI.A. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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1. **Financial Disclosures**

All costs relative to the education provided by the institution are disclosed to the prospective student in an enrollment agreement or similar contractual document before enrollment. Costs must include tuition, educational services, textbooks, and instructional materials; any specific fees associated with enrollment, such as application and registration fees; and fees for required services such as student authentication, proctoring, technology access, and library services.

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| **Standard XI.E. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard XII: Student Support Services

1. **Individual Differences**

Academic advising and instructional support are readily available to assist students in achieving institutional and program requirements, program outcomes, course learning outcomes, and educational goals as required by laws applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates.

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| **Standard XII.B. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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Standard XIII: Fair Practices

1. **Advertising and Promotion**

The institution conforms to ethical practices in all advertising and promotion to prospective students. The institution’s processes and procedures ensure that all advertisements, website content, and other marketing collateral is truthful, accurate, and clearly stated. The institution complies with DEAC’s Catalog Disclosures Checklist and DEAC’s Website Disclosures Checklist.

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| **Standard XIII.F. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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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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| **Standard XV.A. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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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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| **Standard XV.C. – Meets, Partially Meets, Does Not Meet, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

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