

New Accreditation Policy and Procedures



This document highlights the adoption of new Accreditation Policy and Procedures approved by the Board during the December 2020 Board of Directors meeting, following Accreditation Council adoption in October. In April 2020, the Accreditation Council approved the release of proposed new Accreditation Policy and Procedures for public comment. CAEP accepted public comments from stakeholders and the general public from May 2020 through September 2020. More than 40 comments were received and reviewed, and resulted in several edits to the document.

The new Accreditation Policy and Procedures will take effect January 1, 2021, for use by the following:

- EPPs beginning the Initial Accreditation Process (submitting a Part I application) on or after January 1, 2021;
- EPPs scheduled to have a Reaccreditation site visit on or after January 1, 2022, including any EPP scheduled to have a site visit prior to January 1, 2022 and granted a Good Cause Extension which results in the site visit taking place after this date; and
- The Accreditation Council for purposes of governance, including the election of Councilors and officers, roles of committees, and requirements for meetings, voting, and conduct (i.e., conflicts, confidentiality, and consulting), and the election, duties, and conduct of other accreditation volunteers – this document replaces the following sections of prior Accreditation Policy: Section II. Accreditation Council Governance; Section VII. Accreditation Volunteers; and Section X. Administration.

All other CAEP accreditation reviews (those for which EPPs have already begun self-study report development) are to be carried out in accordance with previous versions of Accreditation Policy.

The new Accreditation Policy and Procedures seeks to streamline existing policy, procedures, and guidance documents. Unlike current policy, this document includes both policies and procedures. This new document also addresses the requirements of CHEA's revised recognition policies and puts CAEP closer to fully meeting requirements for recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

It includes the following:

- Changes from an existing policy to require evidence of action taken to prevent substantially underperforming programs from achieving or maintaining accreditation status and the inclusion of more detail on the comprehensive approach CAEP uses to monitor and evaluate continued compliance with its standards. Substantive changes were made in several areas, particularly those policies now included within [Part V](#).
- Additional requirements regarding EPP policies and procedures for the verification of participation of students in distance learning, as required by U.S. Department of Education federal regulations.
- Expansion of policy to require evidence of CAEP's capacity and competence to engage in international accreditation activities, as required by CHEA.
- Changes to policy regarding requirements of volunteers, including those serving on decision-making bodies within CAEP and those participating on site visit teams.
- Key terms changed to more closely align with terminology used by CHEA and the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, the names of some Accreditation Council Committees have been changed to more fully reflect their assigned duties.

You can find the updated Accreditation Policy and Procedures document on the [Accreditation Resources Pages](#). All changes in effect as of January 1, 2021.