

**READINESS ASSESSMENT COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT FORM   
and REPORT TEMPLATE**

# Readiness Assessment Overview for Evaluators

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission requires all initial applicants to successfully complete a readiness assessment before continuing with the accreditation process.

The readiness assessment is conducted by a DEAC-appointed evaluator who has successfully completed the DEAC-required [online Evaluator Training Tutorial](http://www.deactraining.org/tutorials/DEAC102).

The DEAC readiness assessment process is designed to determine whether, based on the totality of the information the institution provides to the independent reviewer, the institution meets a range of baseline eligibility requirements and appears “ready enough” to successfully proceed through a full accreditation evaluation and comprehensive on-site visit. The readiness assessment process also serves as a checkpoint to preclude a waste of the institution’s and DEAC’s resources in situations where an application for accreditation is unlikely to be successful. The readiness assessment report provides the applicant institution with guidance on the actions necessary to prepare for the comprehensive on-site visit.

An initial applicant submits its Self-Evaluation Report (SER) and Exhibits, accompanied by the readiness assessment fee (see *DEAC Accreditation* *Fees* document), within 60 days of the date DEAC accepts the institution’s application for accreditation. The institution submits the materials in accordance with DEAC’s instructions for electronic submission. The Readiness Assessment Report is provided to the institution within 10-12 weeks of receiving the readiness assessment fee, Self-Evaluation Report, and Exhibits.

# Readiness Assessment Guidelines for Evaluators

If the institution substantially meets DEAC’s accreditation standards as presented and evaluated through the Readiness Assessment Compliance Assessment form, the institution is “Deemed Ready” to host an on-site visit.

If the institution does not substantially meet DEAC’s accreditation standards as presented and evaluated through the Readiness Assessment Compliance Assessment form, the institution is “Deemed Not Ready” to host an on-site visit.

DEAC Readiness Findings Guidelines:

* **Deemed Ready:** The institution receives a letter from DEAC indicating that it is deemed ready to continue the accreditation process. The letter also provides guidance to the institution on where its operations and SER responses need to be strengthened, expanded, or revised in order to increase the likelihood of a successful accreditation evaluation and on-site visit. The letter contains an overview of the accreditation process, provides information on next steps including curriculum review, and indicates that the DEAC director of accreditation will coordinate with the institution to schedule the dates for the on-site evaluation.
* **Deemed Not Ready (Second Submission):** The institution receives a letter from DEAC indicating that it is not deemed ready to continue the accreditation process. The institution has six months to submit a revised SER incorporating the evaluator’s comments and recommendations. If, based on the revised SER, the independent DEAC-appointed evaluator deems the institution ready to continue the accreditation process, the institution will begin the curricular review process required for the full evaluation by submitting its curricula for review within three months. The institution must also submit a revised SER to the on-site evaluation team at least five weeks prior to the scheduled on-site visit.
* **Deemed Not Ready (Third Submission):** If the institution is not deemed ready after the second submission, the institution has another six months to revise and submit a new SER incorporating the evaluator’s comments and recommendations. The third submission is reviewed and evaluated by an independent readiness assessment evaluation team appointed by DEAC, which makes its readiness assessment based on the revised SER and the results of the virtual readiness assessment visit. A determination by the team that the institution is not ready is final; however, the institution can reapply for initial accreditation after one year.

# Readiness Assessment Compliance Assessment Form Instructions for Evaluators

Readiness assessment evaluators use the readiness assessment form to review initial applicant institutions and determine, based on compliance with DEAC accreditation standards, whether they are “Deemed Ready” or “Deemed Not Ready” to undergo a comprehensive on-site visit.

The questions on the readiness assessment form are designed to assist the evaluator in determining whether the initial applicant institution substantially meets the intent of DEAC accreditation standards. The readiness assessment evaluator details the assessment of the initial applicant institution by marking the appropriate response check box and by including corresponding comments (including SER page numbers and exhibit numbers) in the section of the form following each standard.

The readiness assessment evaluator provides this evidenced feedback to the initial applicant institution to assist in strengthening its documentation, processes, and procedures in advance of a comprehensive on-site visit. The readiness assessment evaluator considers whether the DEAC accreditation standards are “Evident,” “Emerging,” or “not Evident” based on a focused review of the documents submitted by the initial applicant institution.

DEAC Standards Compliance Findings Guidelines:

* **DEAC Standard is Evident:** The institution demonstrates compliance with the intent of the DEAC accreditation standard or core component.
* **DEAC Standard is Emerging:** The institution demonstrates compliance with some, but not all, of the elements contained in the DEAC accreditation standard or core component.
* **DEAC Standard is Not Evident:** The institution did not demonstrate compliance with the majority of the elements contained in the DEAC accreditation standard or core component.

The Readiness Evaluator should provide clear and concise descriptions within the “Comments” section of the report to support each determination that a standard is evident, emerging, or not evident. If a standard is evident, the Readiness Evaluator may want to consider highlighting within the Comments section the processes and procedures the institution followed that evidenced the Standard. If a standard is emerging or not evident, the Readiness Evaluator needs to adequately describe why this decision was reached and refer, as appropriate, to narrative sections and exhibits within the SER that support the determination.

The Readiness Evaluator must also indicate the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with standards where evidence is emerging or where standards are not evident. Each required action must be tied back to an accreditation standard or core component.

Example: DEAC Accreditation Standard [Insert #] requires [Insert element of the standard that is in question]. [Insert name of institution] needs to [insert the action necessary by the institution to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standard.]

Evaluators must review institutions based only on the DEAC accreditation standards. Any recommendations beyond the scope of the accreditation standards should be provided under “Suggestions.”

# Readiness Assessment Compliance Assessment Report

Name of Institution: Enter name of Institution.

Date of Readiness Assessment Report: Click or tap to enter a date.

Readiness Assessment Evaluator Finding: Choose an item.

**Readiness Assessment:** This readiness assessment evaluator determined that Enter the name of the applicant institution Choose an item. to undergo a full initial on-site accreditation visit by a team representing the Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

**Important Note to Institutions**: The readiness assessment process is intentionally less rigid and less comprehensive than the full accreditation evaluation. The readiness assessment report is a helpful resource in preparing to undergo the curricular review and comprehensive on-site visit, but it does not cover all aspects or issues that will be addressed in the full accreditation evaluation.

A “deemed ready” designation is not a guarantee that accreditation will be awarded. The on-site team, subject matter specialists, or the DEAC may discover and report other findings, required actions, or conditions that lead to accreditation being denied.

The on-site team will have access to this and any future readiness assessment reports prior to the on-site visit.

**Institutional Overview:** Provide an overview of the initial applicant institution including: founding, organizational structure, legal form and governance, target student population, status of state authorization, other accreditations (if any), and a list of the degree and certificate online/hybrid programs offered.

**Exhibits 1-4:** Provide detailed feedback on Exhibits 1-4. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Self-Evaluation Report and Exhibits Structure and Format:** Provide the applicant institution with feedback on the general structure, content, and format of its Self-Evaluation Report and Exhibits.

# 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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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution present its mission statement? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how its mission guides the development of educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Does the mission communicate the institution’s purpose and its commitment to providing quality distance educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s mission appropriate to the level of study offered? |  |  |  |
| Does the mission establish the institution’s identity within the educational community? |  |  |  |
| **Standard I.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an identified DEAC accreditation standard or a core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 leadership, faculty, staff, administrators, and other stakeholders regularly review the mission to assure continued institutional quality and viability. The published mission statement is readily accessible to students, faculty, staff, other stakeholders, and the public.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe the procedures followed by leadership, faculty, staff, administrators, and other stakeholders to regularly review the mission and the continued quality and viability of the institution? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution explain how often the mission is reviewed by leadership, faculty, staff, administrators, and other stakeholders? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide meeting minutes or other documentation that provided supporting evidence that the mission is regularly reviewed? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify who is responsible for ensuring that the mission is readily accessible to students, faculty, staff, other stakeholders, and the public? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe where the mission is published to demonstrate that it is readily accessible to students, faculty, staff, other stakeholders, and the public? |  |  |  |
| **Standard I.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.   
  
**Exhibit 5:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 5 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Information on Achievement of the Mission:** The institution identifies key indicators it uses to demonstrate that it is effectively carrying out its mission. The institution documents the achievement of its mission and shares appropriate information on this achievement with relevant groups (e.g., advisory councils, faculty, staff, students, and the public).

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide the key indicators it uses to measure the achievement of its mission? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution adequately describe how the achievement of these key indicators demonstrates that it is effectively carrying out its mission? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify who is responsible for documenting the institution’s achievement of its mission? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe processes used to seek input from relevant groups regarding the extent to which it achieves its mission? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide samples of the type of data collected for review that is relevant to the key indicators? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it shares information on the achievement of its mission with relevant groups? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the information received from relevant groups is incorporated into improvement planning? |  |  |  |
| **Standard I.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 II: Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning

1. **Institutional Effectiveness Planning:** The institution demonstrates a commitment to its educational offerings and administrative operations through processes that monitor and improve institutional effectiveness. The institution engages in sound research practices; collects and analyzes evidence about its effectiveness; and develops action plans that are used to improve operations, educational offerings, and services.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe its efforts to monitor institutional effectiveness? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide examples of the data collected and analyzed for monitoring institutional effectiveness? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe its research practices and data collection and analysis processes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide the key indicators that it uses to measure its effectiveness and to determine if improvements are needed? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s key indicators and the data collected, adequate to measure effectiveness and inform necessary improvements? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe and provide examples of improvements to its educational offerings based on the data collected and analyzed from its research? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe and provide examples of how it improves its student services based on the data collected and analyzed from its research? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe and provide examples of how it improves its administrative operations based on the data collected and analyzed from its research? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how institutional effectiveness studies inform the ongoing development of its curricula and services? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how often its institutional effectiveness programs and data are reviewed to determine achievement of initiatives? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe the action plans undertaken during its most recent institutional effectiveness planning cycle? |  |  |  |
| **Standard II.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 6:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 6 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Strategic Planning:** The institution has a systematic process of planning for the achievement of goals that supports its mission. The institution’s planning process involves all areas of the institution’s operations (e.g., admissions, academics, technology, etc.) in identifying strategic initiatives and goals by evaluating external and internal trends as they affect the future. At a minimum, the strategic plan addresses finances, academics, technology, admissions, marketing, personnel, and institutional sustainability. The strategic plan is reviewed and updated annually using established metrics designed to measure achievement of strategic planning goals and objectives. The plan helps institutions set priorities, manage resources, and set goals for future performance.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how its strategic planning efforts guide its pursuit of achieving its goals in support of its mission? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide a copy of its strategic plan? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it seeks input from internal and external stakeholders as a means of enhancing its strategic planning process? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the input received from internal and external stakeholders is used in its strategic planning process? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify areas for improvement via a SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) or other means? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s strategic plan adequately identify proactive initiatives to achieve sustainability and protect itself against identified weaknesses and threats? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it aligns the resources needed with its identified strategic initiatives? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s strategic plan address the following: financial stability; development of educational offerings; integration of technology to enhance educational offerings; admissions processes; effective and accurate marketing campaigns to promote institutional sustainability; and professional development of leadership, faculty, and staff? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe the metrics that guide the achievement of its strategic planning goals and objectives? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify key achievements from its last strategic planning cycle that resulted in improvements to the educational offerings and administrative operations? |  |  |  |
| **Standard II.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 6:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 6 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 III: Program Outcomes, Curricula, and Materials

1. **Description of Program Outcomes:** Program outcomes are clearly defined, simply stated, and indicate the benefits for students who are reasonably capable of completing the educational offering. Course learning outcomes are linked to program outcomes as identified by the institution and are consistent with the curricula offered.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how it develops program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide its program outcomes for each educational offering? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it verifies that all program outcomes are current and relevant based on research, comparison, subject matter experts, and advisory council input? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the program outcomes guide the development of curricula content? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how course outcomes are mapped to program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide its curriculum maps for all educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it provides prospective students with information that helps them determine whether the program meets their educational goals based on stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| **Standard III.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 7:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 7 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Appropriate Program Outcomes:** The program outcomes are measurable and reasonably attainable through distance education. Appropriate program outcomes clearly communicate the knowledge, skills, and abilities students will obtain upon completion of the educational offering. Program outcomes reflect the level of student achievement expected that promotes critical thinking, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, global citizenship, civic engagement, or lifelong learning as applicable to the educational offerings.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how it verifies that program outcomes are measurable and reasonably attainable through distance education? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s program outcomes measurable and reasonably attainable through distance education? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the program outcomes communicate the expected knowledge, skills, or abilities that students will gain upon completion of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the program outcomes are appropriate to the type and level of credential being awarded (e.g., non-degree, undergraduate degree, graduate degree, and/or doctoral degree)? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the program outcomes promote the development of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, global citizenship, civic engagement, or lifelong learning, as applicable to the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how program outcomes are comparable to the program outcomes of similar programs offered at appropriately accredited institutions? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s program outcomes comparable to the program outcomes of similar programs offered at appropriately accredited institutions? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 7:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 7 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Degree Programs

All required academic or professional activities, such as program outcomes, course learning outcomes, research projects, supervised clinical practice, field work, applied research exercises, theses, and dissertations, are clearly stated.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide links or documents that indicate where it publishes all required academic or professional activities? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Capstone projects, if required, are consistent with academic and professional standards based on commonly accepted higher education practices and those of any applicable relevant professional organizations. Capstone project learning outcomes are clearly stated.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| If the institution requires capstone or similar culminating projects, did it adequately describe and publish all capstone/culminating project requirements? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the capstone or similar culminating projects are consistent with academic and professional standards based on commonly accepted higher education practices? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s capstone or similar culminating project requirements consistent with academic and professional standards based on commonly accepted higher education practices? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide a link or document where the capstone or culminating project learning outcomes are clearly stated? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Doctoral Degrees

The outcomes of doctoral degree programs are advanced, focused, and scholarly, providing the breadth and depth of learning indicative of advanced degrees.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how it verifies that doctoral degree program outcomes are advanced, focused, and scholarly? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s doctoral degree program outcomes advanced, focused, and scholarly? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how doctoral degree program outcomes provide the breadth and depth of learning that is indicative of advanced degrees? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s doctoral degree program outcomes provide the breadth and depth of learning that is indicative of advanced degrees? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional doctoral degrees prepare scholars to become leaders in their field of study through the pursuit of and contribution to contemporary research that is applied, practical, or project-oriented and is focused on the application of knowledge to a profession.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how the professional doctoral degree offered prepares scholars to become leaders in their field of study through applied, practical, or project-oriented research that is focused on the application of knowledge to a profession? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s professional doctoral degree prepare scholars to become leaders in their field of study through applied, practical, or project-oriented research that is focused on the application of knowledge to a profession? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 learning activities of doctoral degree programs include, as appropriate, seminars, professional meetings, in-residence requirements, discussions with colleagues, participation in sustained synchronous or asynchronous online conferences at predetermined points throughout the program, access to library services, and access to online chat rooms with fellow students, faculty, and relevant professionals.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe how the learning activities (e.g., practica, seminars, in-residence requirements, research activities, capstone or similar culminating experience, dissertation) are assimilated to support the program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s learning activities (e.g., practica, seminars, in-residence requirements, research activities, capstone or similar culminating experience, dissertation) support the program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are these required learning activities clearly disclosed to students? |  |  |  |
| Are capstone or similar culminating projects consistent with commonly accepted higher education practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the professional doctoral degree include access to appropriate learning activities and research resources? |  |  |  |
| Does the professional doctoral degree include a dissertation/research project supervised by an appropriately qualified committee? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s sequencing of required learning activities throughout the program adequate? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 professional doctoral degree program requires students to work with a supervisory dissertation/research project committee that is knowledgeable in graduate-level study and research methods in the discipline. Doctoral degree program curricula include the history and development of the field of study and its foundational theoretical principles.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s professional doctoral degree program require students to work with a supervisory dissertation/research project committee? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require a supervisory dissertation/research project committee comprised of individuals knowledgeable in graduate-level study and research methods in the discipline? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s doctoral degree program curricula include the history and development of the field of study and its foundational theoretical principles? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| **Standard III.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Curricula Delivery:** All curricula and instructional materials are appropriately designed and presented for distance education. Online materials sufficiently support the curriculum and are delivered using readily available, reliable technology.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s curricula and instructional materials appropriately designed to promote effective distance education study? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use adequate technology to effectively deliver all curricula and instructional materials? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have an adequate process for maintaining up-to-date technology and ensuring its reliability? |  |  |  |
| **Standard III.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Comprehensive Curricula and Instructional Materials:** Curricula and instructional materials are sufficiently comprehensive for students to achieve the stated program outcomes. Their organization and content are supported by reliable research and practice. The organization and presentation of the curricula and instructional materials reflect sound principles of learning and are grounded in distance education instructional design principles. The curricula and instructional materials reflect current knowledge and practice. Curricula and instructional materials are kept up to date, and reviews are conducted and documented on a periodic basis. Instructions and suggestions on how to study and how to use the instructional materials are made available to assist students to learn effectively and efficiently.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe the principles of learning it follows throughout the curriculum development process? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s curriculum organization and content grounded in distance education instructional design principles and supported by sound research? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide appropriate study instructions for students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide appropriate instructions for accessing and using instructional materials? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a consistent process for verifying that all curricula and instructional materials are up to date and reflect current knowledge and practice? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a curriculum review schedule? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a consistent process for identifying and correcting content errors in curricula and instructional materials between regularly scheduled program reviews? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a consistent process for ensuring that curricula and instructional materials are sufficiently comprehensive for students to achieve the stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are the organization and content of the institution’s curricula supported by reliable research and practice? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s curriculum reflect current knowledge and industry practice? |  |  |  |
| **Degree Programs:** Are the institution’s degree programs recognized and generally accepted by higher education and/or relevant professional communities? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 7:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 7 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 8:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 8 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution maintains an advisory council for each major group of programs or major subject matter discipline it offers. The advisory council includes members not otherwise employed or contracted at the institution, consisting of practitioners and employers in the field for which the program prepares students. Advisory Councils:
     1. meet at least annually;
     2. provide advice on the current level of skills, knowledge, and abilities individuals need for entry into the occupation; and
     3. provide the institution with recommendations on the adequacy of educational program outcomes, curricula, and course materials.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution use an advisory council or other means to obtain external/industry feedback on its educational activities? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence of advisory council meetings and feedback received? |  |  |  |
| **Degree Programs:** Does the institution maintain an advisory council for each major group of degree programs or major subject matter discipline it offers? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution determines whether courses in a program require any prerequisites. The institution also determines whether courses are offered in a prescribed sequence to maximize student achievement of program outcomes.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution use a consistent process for determining whether courses in a program require prerequisites? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use an adequate process for determining whether courses should be offered in a prescribed sequence to maximize student achievement of program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. General Education for Degree Granting

General education courses convey broad knowledge and intellectual concepts to students and develop skills and attitudes that contribute to civic engagement, academic achievement, and professional attainment. General education courses address content not associated with a particular field of study. General education courses encompass written and oral communication; quantitative principles, natural and physical sciences; social and behavioral sciences; and humanities and fine arts and are designed to develop essential academic skills for enhanced and continued learning.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer general education courses? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s general education courses convey broad knowledge and intellectual concepts to students similar to general education courses offered at appropriately accredited institutions? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s general education courses develop skills and attitudes that contribute to civic engagement, academic achievement, and professional attainment similar to other general education courses offered at appropriately accredited institutions? |  |  |  |
| Does the general education curriculum encompass the subject areas identified in Standard III.D.3? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Associate Degree

Associate degrees are awarded in academic or professional subjects for terminal career or technical programs. Institutions design and offer programs in a way that appropriately balances distinct types of education and training and includes a comprehensive curriculum with appropriate coursework to achieve the program outcomes. Associate degree programs consist of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours. General education courses account for a minimum of 25 percent of the credits required for successful completion of associate degree programs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer associate degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s associate degree programs designed and offered in a way that balances distinct types of education and training? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s associate degree programs include comprehensive curricula with appropriate coursework to achieve stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution state the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours required for successful completion of its associate degree programs, and does that number meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the percentage of credits allocated to the general education courses for program completion meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Bachelor’s Degree

Bachelor’s degree programs are designed and offered in a way that appropriately balances distinct types and levels of education and must include a comprehensive curriculum with appropriate coursework to achieve the program outcomes. Bachelor’s degree programs consist of a minimum of 120 semester credit hours or 180 quarter credit hours. General education courses represent a minimum of 25 percent of the credits required for successful completion of a bachelor’s degree program.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer bachelor’s degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s bachelor’s degree programs designed and offered in a way that balances distinct types and levels of education? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s bachelor’s degree programs include comprehensive curricula with appropriate coursework to achieve program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution explain how the bachelor’s degree programs prepare students for academic success through developing foundational knowledge and skills, developing connections between concepts within their field, and expanding on ideas central to the discipline? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution state the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours required for successful completion of its bachelor’s degree programs, and does that number meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the percentage of credits allocated to the general education courses for program completion meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Master’s Degree

Master’s degree programs are designed and offered in a way that provides for a distinct level of education and fosters independent learning and an understanding of research methods appropriate to the academic discipline. Graduate-level courses are based on appropriate prerequisites, learning outcomes, and assessments. Institutions establish whether graduate courses are completed in a prescribed sequence to facilitate student achievement of program outcomes. Master’s degree programs are a minimum of 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit hours.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer master’s degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s master’s degree programs designed and offered in a way that provides a distinct level of academic rigor that is commensurate with graduate-level study and fosters independent learning? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s master’s degree programs provide students with an understanding of research methods appropriate to the academic discipline? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how the curricula expose students to specialized concepts and techniques central to the academic discipline? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s graduate-level courses based on appropriate prerequisites, learning outcomes, and assessments that require students to synthesize advanced knowledge and master skills in the academic discipline? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require students to complete graduate courses in a prescribed sequence to facilitate student achievement of program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution state the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours required for successful completion of its master’s degree programs, and does that number meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. First Professional Degree

First professional degree programs are designed to offer a required academic credential leading to entry into a specific profession. The graduate degree program identifies competencies required for successful practice in the discipline. First professional degree programs require prior undergraduate preparation appropriate to the degree offered. Graduates of the first professional degree program demonstrate competencies that enable them to evaluate theories and engage in research relevant to the field of study. Demonstrated learning outcomes are comparable to those achieved during a minimum of 50 semester credit hours, 75 quarter credit hours, or their equivalent beyond the bachelor’s degree.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer first professional degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s first professional degree programs identify and teach competencies and establish the academic rigor required for successful practice in the discipline? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require prior undergraduate education for admission to the first professional degree program, and is it consistent with other similar programs offered at appropriately accredited institutions? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately measure students’ achievement of competencies that enable them to synthesize advanced scholarly knowledge, evaluate theoretical concepts, and engage in research relevant to the field of study? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution state the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours required for successful completion of its first professional degree programs, and does that number meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional Doctoral Degree

Professional doctoral degree programs are designed to offer practice-oriented content leading to an advanced academic credential. Professional doctoral degree programs identify and teach competencies that support advancements in the field of study. Graduates of professional doctoral degree programs demonstrate the ability to conduct, interpret, and apply the results of appropriate research. Adequate oversight and advising are provided through all phases of the doctoral program, including clinical practice or fieldwork required by the field of study.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer professional doctoral degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s professional doctoral degree programs identify and teach the competencies that support advancements in the field of study? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s professional doctoral degree programs establish a distinct level of academic rigor requiring students to engage, synthesize, and master advanced specialized knowledge and theoretical concepts? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution measure graduates’ ability to conduct, interpret, and apply the results of appropriate research, and are the measures in place adequate? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide adequate oversight and advising throughout all phases of the professional doctoral degree program, including clinical practice or fieldwork required by the field of study? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Unless otherwise specified for a particular field of study (e.g. nursing, engineering), the program of study requires 60 graduate-level semester credit hours, 90 graduate-level quarter credit hours, or their equivalent beyond the master’s degree, with a maximum of 15 semester credit hours or 22.5 quarter credit hours for the dissertation or final research project. Professional doctoral degree programs are completed in no fewer than two years and no more than 10 years from the date of initial enrollment. A first professional degree in the same discipline may reduce the program requirements when the institution requires a minimum of 90 total graduate semester credit hours or 135 quarter credit hours after the bachelor’s degree.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution state the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours required for successful completion of its professional doctoral degree programs, and does that number meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the number of semester credit hours or quarter credit hours assigned to the dissertation or final research project meet DEAC minimum requirements? |  |  |  |
| Are the minimum and maximum amount of time students have to complete the program, from the date of initial enrollment appropriate, based on commonly accepted practices? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional doctoral degrees require dissertations or capstone projects involving original contributions to the field of study using applied research methods. An appropriately credentialed doctoral committee approves dissertation and capstone project topics. A dissertation or capstone project manual is provided that includes guidelines on identifying, researching, writing on, and presenting the selected topic. Dissertations or capstone projects are appropriately defended by doctoral candidates before a doctoral committee via distance or in person. Professional doctoral degrees are awarded upon final approval by a majority of the doctoral committee.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s professional doctoral degree dissertation, capstone, or culminating project requirements involve students making original contributions to the field of study and integrate appropriate applied research methods? |  |  |  |
| Is the doctoral committee’s process for approving dissertation, capstone, or culminating project topics appropriate? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s dissertation, capstone, or culminating project manual offer adequate guidance to students in identifying, researching, writing on, and presenting the selected topic? |  |  |  |
| Is the process followed by doctoral candidates to defend their dissertations, capstone, or culminating projects before a doctoral committee via distance or in-person adequate and consistent with similar doctoral requirements of other appropriately accredited programs? |  |  |  |
| Is the approval process for dissertations, capstone, or culminating projects adequate and consistent with similar doctoral requirements of other appropriately accredited programs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| **Standard III.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Curricula Development and Delivery:**
   1. Qualified persons competent in distance education instructional design practices work with experts in their subjects or fields to develop the content of all curricula and prepare instructional materials.
   2. The institution describes its model for distance education delivery, such as correspondence, online, or hybrid.
   3. Any contracting with a third party for educational delivery is conducted in accordance with DEAC Processes and Procedures, Part Two, Section XIX F.4. and F.5., Changes in Educational Offerings.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide a copy of its curriculum development manual? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s curriculum content developers (e.g., subject matter experts) appropriately qualified? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence of curriculum content developers’ qualifications? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s distance education instructional designers appropriately qualified? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence of instructional designers’ qualifications? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for verifying that all curriculum content developers are competent in distance education instructional practices, or does the institution follow adequate processes for coordinating the work of curriculum content developers with qualified instructional designers? |  |  |  |
| Are both the institution’s curriculum content developers and the curriculum development process adequate for ensuring that the curricula are aligned with stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s curricula appropriately aligned with stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution appropriately define its model for distance education delivery as either correspondence, online, or hybrid (e.g., a combination of online learning with in-residence components)? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution contract with any third parties for education delivery? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately describe any third-party educational delivery contracting it conducts? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide copies of its contracts for third-party educational delivery? |  |  |  |
| Does the percentage(s) of education delivered by third parties comply with DEAC Processes and Procedures, Part Two, Section XIX. F.4. and F.5., Changes in Educational Offerings? |  |  |  |
| **Standard III.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 9:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 9 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Academic Units of Measurement:** The institution documents policies and procedures used to define the chosen academic unit of measurement. Academic units are measured by either clock hours or credit hours.
   1. Clock Hours

The institution documents its implementation and application of policies and procedures for determining clock hours awarded for its courses and programs. A clock hour is one instructional hour. One instructional hour is defined as 50 minutes of instruction in a 60-minute period.

* 1. Credit Hours

The institution documents its implementation and application of policies and procedures for determining credit hours awarded for its courses and programs. The assignment of credit hours must conform to commonly accepted practices in higher education. A credit hour is defined as an amount of work represented by intended learning outcomes and verified through evidence of student achievement in academic activities.

* 1. Credit Hour Definition

Semester and quarter hours are equivalent to the commonly accepted and traditionally defined units of academic measurement. Academic degree or academic credit-bearing distance education courses are measured by the learning outcomes normally achieved through 45 hours of student work for one semester credit1 or 30 hours of student work for one quarter credit.2

1*One credit/semester hour is 15 hours of academic engagement and 30 hours of preparation.*

*2One quarter hour credit is 10 hours of academic engagement and 20 hours of preparation.*

* 1. Documenting Credit Hours

The institution demonstrates that each course and program requires the appropriate amount of work needed for students to achieve the level of competency defined by institutionally established course/program outcomes. The institution measures and documents the amount of time it takes the average student to achieve learning outcomes and specifies the academic engagement and preparation time.

All student work is documented in the curricula materials and syllabi, including a reasonable approximation of time required for students to complete the assignments. Evaluation of student work is identified as a grading criterion and weighted appropriately in the determination of a final course grade.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide its policy for determining and assigning academic units of measurement? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s process for measuring and documenting the amount of time it takes the average student to achieve the learning outcomes (as a means of assigning academic units of measurement) adequate, based on accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for verifying and documenting that all academic units of measurement are assigned based on the level of educational offering? |  |  |  |
| Are all assigned academic units of measurement appropriate, based on the level of educational offering? |  |  |  |
| **Standard III.F. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 10:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 10 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Educational Media and Learning Resources:** Learning resources for faculty and students are available and appropriate to the level and scope of program offerings. Program designers, faculty, and instructors effectively use appropriate teaching aids and learning resources, including educational media and supplemental instructional aids, when creating programs and teaching students. The institution provides faculty and students with access to learning resources, libraries, or resource-related services that are appropriate for the achievement of program learning outcomes.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer learning resources that are designed to adequately support the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are all student learning resources appropriate to the level and scope of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are all faculty learning resources appropriate to the level and scope of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Do program designers, curriculum developers, and faculty appropriately integrate teaching aids, learning resources, educational media, and supplemental instructional aids when creating educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are learning resources, libraries, and resource-related services adequate to support students’ achievement of program learning outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are learning resources regularly reviewed and updated to continue to meet student and faculty needs? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution employ or contract with an appropriately qualified librarian, based on the level and scope of educational offerings? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Undergraduate Degrees

Learning resources are systematically and regularly evaluated to assure that they meet student needs and support the institution’s programs and mission. A variety of educational materials are selected, acquired, organized, and maintained to fulfill the institution’s mission and support all educational offerings. Faculty are involved in the selection of learning resources.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are learning resources regularly evaluated, according to an appropriate process, to ensure that they continue to meet undergraduate student needs and support the institution’s undergraduate programs and mission? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s processes adequate for selecting, acquiring, organizing, and maintaining educational materials to support all undergraduate educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are faculty appropriately involved in evaluating and selecting undergraduate learning resources? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Graduate Degrees

In addition to the requirements for undergraduate degrees, graduate students are provided with access to library and other learning resources that are sufficient for research at the graduate level. The institution provides and encourages the use of library services and, if required, research and laboratory facilities at a distance or through arrangements with local institutions.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are learning resources regularly evaluated, according to an appropriate process, to ensure that they continue to meet graduate student needs and support the institution’s graduate programs and mission? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s processes adequate for selecting, acquiring, organizing, and maintaining educational materials to support all graduate educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are faculty appropriately involved in evaluating and selecting graduate-level learning resources? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide graduate students access to library and other learning resources that are sufficient for graduate-level research? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately encourage the use of library services, and if required, research and laboratory facilities? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard III.G. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Examinations and Other Assessments:** Examinations and other assessment techniques provide adequate evidence of the achievement of stated learning outcomes. The institution establishes and enforces grading criteria that it uses to evaluate and document student attainment of learning outcomes.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution use appropriate examinations and assessments throughout the curricula? |  |  |  |
| Are the examinations and assessments adequate to measure student achievement of stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately monitor and measure results of examinations and assessments to ensure that students are achieving the stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Undergraduate Degrees

The institution assesses student achievement through multiple means of evaluation (e.g., student presentations, group projects, essays, research papers, participation in threaded discussions, supervised practica, or externships).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately assess and evaluate undergraduate student achievement? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s examinations and assessments designed to measure student mastery of identified knowledge, skills, and abilities applicable to the undergraduate degrees offered? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for verifying that degree candidates have met all graduation requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Master’s Degrees

The institution assesses student achievement through multiple means of evaluation, including a culminating experience required for program completion (e.g., capstone experience, comprehensive examination, research project, or master’s thesis).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately assess and evaluate graduate student achievement? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require a culminating experience for successful completion of its master’s program(s)? |  |  |  |
| Is the required culminating experience appropriate, based on accepted best practices of other similar master’s degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the required culminating experience adequately measure students’ achievement of program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s examinations and assessments designed to measure student mastery of advanced scholarship, theoretical concepts, and the skills and abilities applicable to the master’s degrees offered? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for verifying that degree candidates have met all graduation requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. First Professional and Doctoral Degrees

The institution assesses student achievement through multiple means of evaluation that includes a doctoral dissertation or final research project as well as other forms of assessments such as qualifying examinations, comprehensive examinations, or other assessments that demonstrate student mastery of the stated program learning outcomes. The institution requires students to successfully complete all coursework and a doctoral dissertation or final research project to graduate from the program.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s means of evaluation adequately measure student achievement, including mastery of advanced scholarly knowledge, theoretical concepts, or specialized content areas specific to the discipline? |  |  |  |
| If used, are the institution’s requirements for completing qualifying examinations adequate? |  |  |  |
| If used, are the institution’s requirements for completing comprehensive examinations adequate? |  |  |  |
| If applicable, does the institution publish an adequate process for students to follow for completing a dissertation or final research project? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for verifying that degree candidates have met all graduation requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| **Standard III.H. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Student Integrity and Academic Honesty:** The institution publishes clear, specific policies related to student integrity and academic honesty. The institution affirms that the student who takes an assessment is the same person who enrolled in the program and that the examination results will reflect the student’s own knowledge and competence in accordance with stated learning outcomes.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s student integrity and academic honesty policies adequate? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution consistently enforce its student integrity and academic honesty policies? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s procedures for verifying student identity effective? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 11:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 11 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Non-Degree Programs

Institutions meet this requirement by using a secure login and passcode, administering proctored assessments, or by other means of secure technology.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s procedures adequate for determining (1) that the student who takes the assessment is the same person who enrolled in the program and (2) that the assessment results reflect the student’s own knowledge and competence in accordance with stated learning outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution describe how it meets the requirement for student identity by using a secure login and passcode, administering proctored assessments, or by employing other means of secure technology? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Degree Programs

In addition to the requirements for non-degree programs above, degree-granting institutions meet this requirement by administering proctored assessments at appropriate intervals throughout the program of study and provide a clear rationale for placement of the proctored assessments within the program. Proctors use valid government-issued photo identification or other means to confirm student identity.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s procedures for administering proctored assessments to students enrolled in degree programs adequate for verifying student identity? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s process for determining the placement of proctored assessments at intervals throughout the program of study adequate to ensure verification of students’ identity? |  |  |  |
| Are the processes followed by proctors adequate to confirm students’ identity? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard III.I. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Institutional Review Board:** For any final research project, master’s thesis, or dissertation that involves human research, the institution must require prior formal review and approval for all such research involving human subjects through an institutional review board (IRB), which has been designated to approve, monitor, and review all research involving human subjects. The IRB should ensure that the subjects are not placed at undue risk, that they have voluntarily agreed to participate, and that they have given appropriate informed consent. The IRB must meet all federal regulations, and the institution must be able to demonstrate that it is in compliance, including providing evidence that all IRB members have had appropriate training. (Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies and procedures in place for students to follow when human research is involved in their final research project or dissertation? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require prior formal review and approval by an institutional review board (IRB) of all research involving human subjects? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate processes in place to ensure that human subjects are not placed at undue risk and that they have voluntarily agreed to participate and have signed a consent form? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s institutional review board (IRB) meet all federal regulations? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence that all institutional review board (IRB) members have received appropriate training? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence that all students receive appropriate training prior to engaging in research projects involving human subjects? |  |  |  |
| **Standard III.J. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 IV: Educational and Student Support Services

1. **Appropriate Technology:** The institution uses appropriate and readily accessible technology to optimize interaction between the institution and the student that effectively supports instructional and educational services. Students, faculty, and involved practitioners receive training and support for the technology used to deliver the educational offerings.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are students adequately informed of the institution’s minimum technology requirements prior to admission? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately use technology or other appropriate means (e.g. correspondence) to optimize interaction between the institution and students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s use of technology effectively enhance and support instructional and educational services? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution offer adequate training and support for students and faculty in the use of the technology used to deliver its educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s plans for maintaining current technology and adopting new technology adequate, based on its educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 12:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 12 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Student Inquiries and Submissions:** The institution publishes all available methods students can use to submit inquiries and assignments. The institution responds promptly and thoroughly to all student inquiries using all these channels.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer various ways for students to submit inquiries and assignments? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately respond to administrative inquiries (e.g., admissions, enrollment, transcript requests, technology)? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately respond to academic inquiries (e.g., assignment submission, assessment requirements, grades)? |  |  |  |
| Are the procedures followed by faculty/instructors for reviewing, evaluating, and grading examinations and assessments adequate? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 13:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 13 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Individual Differences:** Academic advising and instructional support are provided to assist students in achieving institutional and program requirements, program outcomes, course learning outcomes, and educational goals consistent with best educational practices and as required by applicable federal and state laws.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer adequate academic advising and instructional support to assist students having difficulties in meeting program requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s academic advising and instructional support encourage students to meet program requirements, achieve program and course outcomes, and attain educational goals? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately accommodate the needs of students, as required by applicable federal and state laws? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s procedures for ensuring students equal access to educational offerings adequate? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Encouragement of Students:** The institution’s policies and procedures optimize interaction between the institution and students. The interaction proactively promotes student completion and success.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s policies, procedures, and time frames for monitoring and encouraging student progress adequate? |  |  |  |
| Are the various types of contact used by the institution adequate to encourage students to achieve stated program outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s efforts to encourage students separate from efforts to collect delinquent tuition? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 14:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 14 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** The institution implements and consistently applies a satisfactory academic progress policy and discloses this policy to students. Standards for measuring satisfactory academic progress include qualitative and quantitative standards used for evaluation of student progress. The institution takes appropriate action if students fail to meet the institution’s minimum standards of progress. Students are informed of their academic progress and standing in the program at regular intervals throughout their enrollment.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s satisfactory academic progress policy adequate, based on its educational offerings and mission? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate qualitative and quantitative standards that adequately measure student progress? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution consistently enforce its satisfactory academic progress policy if the student is unable to meet minimum standards of progress? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify who is responsible for monitoring student progress? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution regularly monitor and verify student progress based on its satisfactory academic progress policy? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution inform students of their academic progress and standing in the program at appropriate intervals? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 15:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 15 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Grading Policies:** Student academic performance is measured using published grading policies that include prompt return of accurately, fairly, and consistently graded assessments that are supervised by a qualified instructor or faculty member. The institution publishes its assignment marking system, course extension policy, and information on issuance and completion of incomplete grades, and applies them with fairness and consistency.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s approach to grading adequate and consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have procedures in place to ensure that faculty/instructors apply the grading policy with consistency and fairness? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify who is responsible for ensuring that all grading is conducted accurately, fairly, and consistently? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide a link to its published grading policies and other related academic policies? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.F. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 16:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 16 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Student Records:** Accurate student records are securely and confidentially maintained. Policies and procedures for keeping records on students’ academic progress are in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and professional requirements. 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 require students to submit appropriate academic records based on its educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain appropriate documents in students’ records based on its educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s process for maintaining student academic records adequate? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain academic records for a sufficient period of time, based on federal, state, and professional requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow appropriate procedures for maintaining records of students’ examinations and assessments? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s procedures for securing, maintaining, and protecting student records adequate? |  |  |  |
| Are student records readily accessible to authorized staff and faculty? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution offer adequate transcript services for current students and alumni? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.G. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 17:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 17 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** The institution’s policies protect student confidentiality and privacy as required by applicable federal and state laws.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s confidentiality and privacy policies adequate and consistent with applicable federal and state laws? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution procedures adequately protect student confidentiality and privacy as required by applicable federal and state laws? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.H. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 18:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 18 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Student Support Services:** The institution provides support services designed for the students enrolled, such as financial aid guidance, advising services, employment assistance, and/or alumni services. Appropriate academic support services are readily available. Any career services and/or alumni services are offered as published in the institution’s materials.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution provide adequate support services for students enrolled, based on its educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are these support services readily available to students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution offer career and alumni services? |  |  |  |
| If so, are the career and alumni services offered adequate, based on its educational offerings and consistent with the institution’s mission? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.I. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Student Complaints:** The institution has policies and procedures for receiving, responding to, and addressing student complaints. The policies and procedures should embody the principles of fairness, responsiveness, respect, due process and proportionality.
   1. Institutional Complaints

DEAC requires institutions to have written complaint policies and procedures for the purposes of receiving, responding to, addressing, and resolving complaints made by students, faculty, administrators, or any party, including one who has good reason to believe that an institution is not in compliance with DEAC accreditation standards.

* 1. At a minimum, the institution’s policy instructs students how to file a complaint or grievance and the maximum time for resolution. The institution’s complaint policy and procedures are available to all students. The institution defines what it reasonably considers to be a student complaint.
  2. The institution reviews in a timely, fair, and equitable manner any complaint it receives from students. When the complaint concerns a faculty member or administrator, the institution may not complete its review and make a final decision regarding a complaint unless, and in accordance with its published procedures, it ensures that the faculty member or administrator has sufficient opportunity to provide a response to the complaint. The institution takes any follow-up action, including enforcement action if necessary, based on the results of its review.
  3. The institution’s complaint policy states how complaints can be filed with state agencies and its accrediting organization.
  4. The institution will retain the complete files for all complaints which may be filed against the institution, its faculty, staff, students or other associated parties for the longer of five years from the filing of the complaint or the completion of the institution’s next cycle of evaluation for reaccreditation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s complaint policy adequate, and is it appropriately published? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for receiving, responding to, and addressing student complaints? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution resolve adequately and in a timely manner any complaints received in the past five years? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s complaint policy provide students with information on filing a complaint with the appropriate state licensing or authorizing authority and DEAC? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution retain complete files for all complaints filed against the institution, its faculty, staff, students, or other associated parties for an appropriate length of time, as defined by Standard VI.J.5? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IV.J. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 19:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 19 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 V: Student Achievement and Satisfaction

1. **Student Achievement:** The institution evaluates student achievement using indicators that it determines are appropriate relative to its mission and educational offerings. The institution evaluates student achievement by collecting data from outcomes assessment activities using direct and indirect measures. The institution maintains systematic and ongoing processes for assessing student learning and achievement, analyzes data, and documents that the results meet both internal and external benchmarks, including those comparable to courses or programs offered at peer DEAC-accredited institutions. The institution demonstrates and documents how the evaluation of student achievement drives quality improvement of educational offerings and support services.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide its outcomes assessment plan? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s outcomes assessment plan comprehensive? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have systematic procedures for collecting outcomes assessment data? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution identify direct measures (e.g., assignment, examination, or assessment) that provide the necessary information it uses to measure and determine if students are achieving program and course outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify benchmarks or standards it uses to measure whether students are achieving the stated program and course outcomes? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use data collected from direct measures as a result of its outcomes assessment plan to improve and enhance its educational offerings and support services? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide adequate evidence that it meets DEAC’s most recently published benchmarked standards for graduation and completion rates? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use consistent processes to monitor student persistence and retention? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use consistent processes to monitor student graduation rates? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately monitor the employment status of graduates of programs that indicate a specific career as an outcome for the program? |  |  |  |
| For programs that indicate a specific career or other benefit as an outcome or prepare students for state licensure/certification examination required for entering a profession, does the institution use consistent processes for collecting data on student achievement of that outcome(s)? |  |  |  |
| For programs that indicate job placement, did the institution provide evidence of employer acceptance of graduates? |  |  |  |
| For programs that indicate a specific career or other benefit as an outcome, does the institution gather and use information from employers about future employment prospects for graduates of these programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately disclose information to the public on the achievement of its students? |  |  |  |
| **Standard V.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 20-21:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 20-21 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Student Satisfaction:** The institution systematically seeks student and alumni opinions as one basis for evaluating and improving curricula, instructional materials, method of delivery, and student services. The institution regularly collects evidence that students are satisfied with the administrative, educational, and support services provided.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide evidence that it systematically seeks student and alumni opinions as one basis for evaluating and improving curricula, instructional materials, method of delivery, and student services? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution identify indirect measures that it uses to measure student satisfaction? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify benchmarks or standards that it uses to measure student satisfaction? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use data collected from indirect measures as a result of its outcomes assessment plan to improve and enhance its educational offerings and support services? |  |  |  |
| **Standard V.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 21:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 21 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Performance Disclosures:** The institution routinely discloses on its website reliable, current, and accurate information on its performance, including student achievement, as determined by the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution disclose outcomes assessment performance measures on its website? |  |  |  |
| Is the information disclosed sufficiently current and accurate data on its student achievement? |  |  |  |
| **Standard V.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 22:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 22 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 VI: Academic Leadership and Faculty Qualifications

1. **Academic Leadership:** The institution demonstrates appropriate academic leadership capacity and infrastructure to support the effective distance education delivery of educational offerings. Academic leaders possess the academic credentials, background, knowledge, ethics, and experience necessary to guide the instructional activities of the institution.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s academic leaders possess the knowledge and experience to support effective distance education delivery of educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s academic infrastructure adequate to provide effective distance education delivery of educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s academic leaders possess the appropriate academic credentials, background, knowledge, ethics, and experience to guide instructional activities? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s academic leaders assigned appropriate responsibilities based on their identified roles within the organization? |  |  |  |
| **Standard VI.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 23:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 23 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Chief Academic Officer (CAO) or Educational Director:** The institution designates a chief academic officer, educational director, or other similar oversight position. This individual is responsible for overall administrative of the educational program(s); for the educational, editorial, and research activities within departmental subject fields; and for faculty/instructors. The individual also informs marketing decisions.

Within the context of the institution’s mission:

* 1. The CAO or education director has appropriate academic administrative experience and competence necessary to lead and manage educational offerings in a distance education environment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s CAO or education director possess appropriate academic administrative experience and competence to lead and manage educational offerings in a distance education environment? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 CAO or education director possesses academic credentials that are appropriate for the leadership, supervision, and oversight of faculty, curriculum design, and student achievement expectations.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s chief academic officer, education director, or other individual in a similar oversight position possess the appropriate academic credentials, background, knowledge, and experience to oversee the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are the role and administrative responsibilities of the CAO or education director appropriate for the position? |  |  |  |
| Does the CAO or education director oversee educational, editorial, and research activities for the educational offerings and inform marketing decisions? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s CAO or education director possess academic credentials that support the responsibilities for leadership, supervision, and oversight of faculty, curriculum design, and student achievement? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 23:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 23 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Doctoral Degrees

The institution appoints a director for doctoral degree programs. The director possesses previous higher education administrative capacity and distance learning knowledge to lead doctoral programs. The director possesses the appropriate terminal degree earned from an appropriately accredited institution in a subject area relevant to the degree program being offered.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution identify the director responsible for overseeing the doctoral programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the doctoral program director possess previous higher education administrative experience and distance learning knowledge necessary to lead doctoral programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the doctoral program director possess earned academic credentials that are relevant to the degree program being offered? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Dissertation Supervisory Committee

A doctoral committee of at least three faculty members is assigned for each student. Doctoral committee members possess appropriate credentials, scholarship, experience, and practice in the field of study. At least one member of the doctoral committee is a member of the awarding institution’s faculty. At least two members of the doctoral committee have earned doctoral degrees from appropriately accredited institutions other than from the awarding institution. All committee members are qualified in the subject area of the dissertation or research project topic. The institution has final approval for students who nominate faculty to the doctoral committee.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s policy for selecting a doctoral committee adequate and consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow consistent procedures to verify that doctoral committee members have the appropriate credentials, scholarship, experience, and practice in the field of study? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide students with an adequate process for nominating faculty to their doctoral committee? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard VI.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Instructors, Faculty, and Staff:** Faculty/instructors are qualified and appropriately credentialed to teach the subject at the assigned level. The institution employs a sufficient number of qualified faculty/instructors to provide individualized instructional service to each student. The institution maintains faculty/instructor résumés, official transcripts, and copies of applicable licenses or credentials on file. Faculty/instructors are carefully screened for appointment and are properly and continuously trained on institutional policies, learner needs, instructional approaches and techniques, and the use of instructional technology. The institution regularly evaluates faculty and administrator performance using clear, consistent procedures. The institution assures that faculty are appropriately involved and engaged in the curricular and instructional aspects of the educational offerings. Faculty are assigned responsibilities based on their degree qualifications and/or area(s) of expertise.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s faculty/instructor qualifications appropriate for the subject areas taught and the credential level of programs offered? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution employ or contract with a sufficient number of qualified faculty/instructors to provide individualized instructional service to students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain adequate documentation to demonstrate that faculty/instructors are appropriately qualified? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow consistent processes for screening faculty/instructors for appointment? |  |  |  |
| Are faculty/instructors continuously trained in institutional policies, learner needs, instructional approaches and techniques, and the use of instructional technology? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution regularly evaluate faculty/instructor and staff performance? |  |  |  |
| Are faculty/instructors appropriately involved and engaged in the curricular and instructional aspects of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Are faculty assigned responsibilities based on their degree qualifications and/or area(s) of expertise? |  |  |  |
| If the institution uses external faculty/instructors, technical advisors, researchers, or subject matter specialists, are they hired in accordance with institutional policies and appropriately monitored throughout their engagement? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution describe its contractual arrangements, including the method of compensation, for any faculty/instructor/staff and external individuals? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide data on and reasons for any faculty turnover in the past five years? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for publishing, as well as policies in place for preventing and resolving faculty conflicts of interest? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 24:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 24 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 25:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 25 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. High School

The institution provides evidence that all faculty/instructors are qualified and appropriately credentialed to teach the subject and level within the high school program offered.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching high school program courses? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching high school program courses consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution make any exceptions to qualifications for faculty teaching high program courses? If so, are they appropriate? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Non-Degree

Instructors teaching technically- or practice-oriented courses have practical experience in the field and possess current licenses and/or certifications, as applicable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching non-degree courses? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching non-degree courses consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution make any exceptions to qualifications for faculty teaching non-degree courses? If so, are they appropriate? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Occupational/Technical Associate Degree

Faculty possess earned credentials awarded by appropriately accredited institutions and/or have practical experience in the field and possess current licenses and/or certifications if applicable. The institution must demonstrate the academic preparation and practical experience of each faculty member consistent with accepted postsecondary education practices.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies to verify that faculty possess earned credentials awarded by appropriately accredited institutions and/or practical experience in the field, as well as current licenses and/or certifications if applicable? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s academic preparation and practical experience requirements for faculty teaching in occupational/technical associate degree programs consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that faculty possess adequate academic preparation and practical experience? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Undergraduate Degrees

Faculty teaching undergraduate degree program courses possess, at a minimum, a degree at least one level above that of the program they are teaching and demonstrate expertise in the subject field of the discipline. Faculty teaching general education courses at the undergraduate level, including occupational/technical associate degrees, must possess a master’s degree in the assigned general education subject field or have a master’s degree and 18 semester credit hours in the general education subject field.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching at the undergraduate level? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching at the undergraduate level consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that faculty are properly qualified and possess the necessary academic preparation and experience? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Master’s Degrees

Faculty teaching graduate-level courses in a master’s degree program must possess, at a minimum, a doctoral/terminal degree earned at an appropriately accredited institution in the subject field of the discipline and demonstrate familiarity with practical applications of the field.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching at the master’s degree level? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching at the master’s degree level consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that faculty are properly qualified and possess the necessary academic preparation and experience? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Faculty Qualification Equivalency

In limited and exceptional cases, institutions may demonstrate that faculty are qualified to teach at the undergraduate and master’s levels through faculty qualification equivalency. Such equivalency is demonstrated by evidence of substantial breadth and depth of experiences and knowledge that are relevant to the discipline in which the faculty member is teaching. An institution that intends to substitute faculty qualification equivalency for the degree qualifications set forth in Standards VI.C.4 and VI.C.5 must have:

* + 1. well-defined policies, procedures and documentation that demonstrate how experience and knowledge are sufficient to determine that the faculty member has the expertise necessary to teach students in that discipline; and
    2. procedures that ensure that adequate oversight of teaching and learning is provided by individuals who possess degree qualifications in accordance with Standards VI.C.4 and VI.C.5.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies for faculty qualification equivalency? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s policies ensure that faculty qualification equivalency is only considered in limited and exceptional cases? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require appropriate documentation to determine that a faculty member has sufficient experience, knowledge, and expertise necessary to substitute faculty qualification equivalency for the degree qualifications set forth in Standards VI.C.4 and VI.C.5.? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate procedures in place to ensure that adequate oversight of teaching and learning is provided by individuals who possess appropriate degree qualifications as set forth in Standards VI.C.4 and VI.C.5? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. First Professional Degrees

All teaching faculty and involved practitioners possess a first professional or higher degree earned at an appropriately accredited institution in a related subject field and possess specialized knowledge and skills in the subject area, consistent with educational practices of other similar programs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching at the first professional degree level? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching at the first professional degree level consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that faculty are properly qualified and possess the academic preparation and experience consistent with accepted higher education practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution make any exceptions to qualifications for faculty teaching first professional degree level courses? If so, are they appropriate? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional Doctoral Degrees

All teaching faculty possess terminal degrees (e.g., professional doctoral degree or Ph.D.) earned at an appropriately accredited institution in a related subject field. Prior to enrolling students, the institution has in place a dedicated dean, director, or other academic officer with credentials appropriate to the degree(s) being offered.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate policies on required qualifications for faculty teaching at the professional doctoral degree level? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications for faculty teaching at the professional doctoral degree level consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that faculty are properly qualified and possess the academic preparation and experience consistent with accepted higher education practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution make any exceptions to qualifications for faculty teaching professional doctoral degree-level courses? If so, are they appropriate? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify the dedicated dean, director, or other academic officer appointed to oversee the professional doctoral degree programs offered? |  |  |  |
| Is the professional doctoral dedicated dean, director, or other academic officer appropriately qualified for this position, based on education and experience? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 VI.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Professional Growth:** The institution demonstrates a commitment to faculty and staff professional development. The institution encourages faculty and staff to become members of professional organizations, to review and apply relevant research, to pursue continuing education or training in their respective fields, and to enhance their skills in developing and using electronically delivered, online, or other forms of distance study. The institution provides faculty and administrators with access to a collection of professional educational materials to keep abreast of current trends, developments, techniques, research, and experimentation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have an adequate professional development policy for faculty/instructors and staff? |  |  |  |
| Have the institution’s faculty/instructors and staff participated in appropriate professional development based on their subject area and responsibilities in the past five years? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide faculty/instructors and staff with access to a collection of professional educational materials to keep informed of current trends, developments, techniques, research, and experimentation? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution offer internal professional development opportunities? If so, are they appropriate to mission and educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide evidence of how faculty/instructor and staff professional development has informed and enhanced educational offerings and support services? |  |  |  |
| **Standard VI.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 26:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 26 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 VII: Advertising, Promotional Literature, and Recruitment Personnel

1. **Advertising and Promotion:** The institution conforms to ethical practices in all advertising and promotion to prospective students. All advertisements, website content, and promotional literature are truthful, accurate, clear, and readily accessible to the public; proactively states that programs are offered via distance education; and appropriately discloses occupational opportunities as applicable. Catalogs, enrollment agreements, manuals, and websites list the institution’s full name and physical address. At a minimum, all print advertisements and promotional literature include the institution’s city, state, and website home page URL where, in compliance with DEAC’s Website Disclosures Checklist, the institution’s physical address is provided. All web-based advertisements provide a link to the institution’s website home page URL. All institutional social media account profiles provide a link to the institution’s website home page URL. The institution complies with the DEAC’s Catalog Disclosures Checklist and DEAC’s Website Disclosures Checklist.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution describe its approach to advertising and promotion of its programs? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify who is responsible for the institution’s marketing and advertising decisions? |  |  |  |
| Is the individual responsible for the institution’s marketing appropriately qualified by education or experience for this role? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate procedures in place to verify that all advertisements, website content, and promotional materials are truthful, accurate, clear, and readily accessible to the public; proactively state that programs are offered via distance education; and appropriately disclose any occupational opportunities, as applicable? |  |  |  |
| Do all promotional materials, catalogs, enrollment agreements, manuals, and websites list the institution’s full name and physical address? |  |  |  |
| Do all web-based advertisements and social media account profiles provide a link to the institution’s website home page URL? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 27-28:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 27-28 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. All advertisements and promotional materials accurately reflect the programs and services offered by the institution. The word “guarantee” is never used in advertisements. Under limited and exceptional circumstances, institutions may use the word “free” when it is appropriate to the mission and purpose of the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do all advertisements and promotional materials accurately reflect the fact that educational offerings are delivered through distance education? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have procedures in place to ensure that the word “guarantee” is never used? |  |  |  |
| If the word “free” is used, did the institution provide adequate evidence that shows that the use of the word is appropriate to the mission and purpose of the institution? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **In-Residence Program Component:** All required in-residence components and additional associated costs are disclosed on the institution’s websites, advertisements, and promotional materials.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution conducts in-residence program components? If not, this is not applicable. If the institution indicated that it does conduct in-residence program components, refer to the institution’s In-Residence Program Companion document and complete the related Report Template. |  |  |  |

* 1. The institution’s website testimonials and endorsements are truthful and less than four years old. The institution maintains signed student consent forms for each published testimonial. The institution’s website discloses all program requirements, course descriptions, tuition and related costs, program schedules, method of delivery, and its catalog prior to the collection of any personal student contact information. The institution does not use other institutions as triggers for its own sponsored links on Internet search engines.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow consistent processes for verifying that all testimonials and endorsements are truthful and less than four years old? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate processes for obtaining and maintaining signed student consent forms for each published testimonial? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use other institutions as triggers for its own sponsored links on Internet search engines? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 29:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 29 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution discloses in its catalog, website, and enrollment agreements that the acceptance of earned transfer credits is determined by the receiving institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution appropriately publish transfer credit disclaimers in its catalog, website, and enrollment agreements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution adheres to applicable catalog, website, and enrollment agreement disclosures checklists, based on educational offerings. The institution publishes student consumer information as required by federal and state statute and regulations.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution in compliance with the DEAC catalog and website disclosures checklists? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution appropriately publish consumer information as required by federal and state statute and regulations? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Any incentives offered to prospective and current students to enroll must be limited in nature to institution-branded items and in no event may such items exceed an aggregate value of $100 annually with respect to any individual.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer incentives to prospective and/or current students to enroll? |  |  |  |
| If incentives are offered, are they limited to only institution-branded items? |  |  |  |
| If incentives are offered, do they exceed an aggregate value of $100 annually with respect to any individual? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution permanently archives its catalogs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution permanently archive its catalogs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard VII.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Institution and Course Accredited-Status Recognition:** The institution accurately reflects its accredited status and uses the official DEAC accreditation logo and/or statement of accreditation when publishing its accreditation status in advertisements and promotional materials on its website, and in social media. DEAC’s name, address, telephone number, and web address are published in the institution’s catalog.
   1. The institution publishes a statement of accreditation only as follows:
      * + Accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission
        + DEAC Accredited
   2. The institution refers to DEAC’s recognition by the U.S. Department of Education only as follows: “The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a recognized accrediting agency.”
   3. The institution refers to DEAC’s recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) only as follows: “The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution appropriately refer to its accredited status? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution appropriately refer to DEAC’s recognition by the U.S. Department of Education? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution appropriately refer to DEAC’s recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 accredited institution publicly corrects any misleading or inaccurate information it releases on its accreditation status, contents of its on-site team reports from accreditation-related visits, and/or actions taken by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission with respect to the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for publicly correcting any misleading or inaccurate information it releases on its DEAC accreditation status, content of its DEAC on-site team reports, or actions taken by DEAC? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution correct misleading or inaccurate information within an appropriate time frame? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. All courses and programs are approved by DEAC before the institution advertises or enrolls students in them. The institution uses the term “College” or “University” in its name only if it offers academic degree programs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for ensuring that all courses and programs are approved by DEAC before it advertises them or enrolls students in them? |  |  |  |
| If the institution has “College” or “University” in its name, does the institution offer degree programs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard VII.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Student Recruitment:** The institution demonstrates ethical processes and procedures are followed throughout the recruitment of prospective students by any individual who is authorized by the institution to participate in the enrollment process with prospective students. Minimum ethical practices and procedures are identified below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow effective processes and procedures for enrolling prospective students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow ethical processes and procedures when enrolling prospective students? |  |  |  |
| Are the qualifications of institution’s recruitment personnel adequate for the identified roles and responsibilities? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 30:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 30 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution takes full responsibility for the actions, statements, and conduct of its authorized recruitment personnel. The institution maintains appropriate records, licensures, registrations, signed employment contract, and signed DEAC Code of Ethics, as applicable for all recruitment personnel. The institution demonstrates it adequately trains its recruitment personnel and provides them with accurate information concerning employment and remuneration. All authorized recruitment personnel are provided with appropriate materials covering applicable procedures, policies, and presentations. The institution demonstrates that it routinely monitors its recruitment personnel or independent organizations that provide prospective applicants names to assure they are in compliance with all state, federal, and DEAC recruitment practices.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately supervise and monitor recruitment personnel? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow appropriate hiring practices for recruitment personnel? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately train its recruitment personnel? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require all recruitment personnel to sign the DEAC Code of Ethics? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow an adequate professional development policy for recruitment personnel? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution regularly review its materials used to enroll prospective students to ensure that they are up to date? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for verifying that its recruitment materials are in compliance with all state, federal, and DEAC recruitment practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have processes and criteria to evaluate recruitment personnel and are evaluations routinely conducted? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 30:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 30 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. All personnel involved in student recruitment, including telemarketing staff, conform to applicable federal, state, and international laws. Personnel involved in student recruitment may not be given and may not use any title that indicates special qualifications for career guidance, advising, or registration, nor may they publish advertisements without written authorization from the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate processes in place to verify that recruitment personnel conform to applicable federal, state, and international laws? |  |  |  |
| Do recruitment personnel appropriately identify themselves to prospective students? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. If an institution offers students nominal gifts for referring prospective students to the institution who ultimately enroll in the institution, such gifts must be limited in nature to institution-branded items and in no event may exceed an aggregate value of $100 annually with respect to any individual.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer any incentives for making referrals? |  |  |  |
| If the institution offers incentives, are they limited to only institution-branded items? |  |  |  |
| If the institution offers incentives, do they exceed an aggregate value of $100 annually with respect to any individual? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| **Standard VII.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

## Standard VIII: Admission Practices and Enrollment Agreements

1. **Admissions Disclosures:** Admissions policies and procedures are designed to assure that the institution enrolls only those students who are reasonably capable of successfully completing and benefiting from the educational offerings.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s admissions policy appropriate and consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for determining its admissions criteria? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s admissions policy verifies that only students who are reasonably capable of completing and benefiting from the educational offerings are enrolled? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 31:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 31 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution informs each applicant, prior to admission, of the admissions criteria, the nature of the education provided, and the demands of the educational offerings. Prior to completing the enrollment process, the institution requires students to affirm access to the catalog and other institutional documents disclosing the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately inform each prospective student of the admissions criteria, the nature of the education offered, and the demands of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution require students to affirm receipt of the catalog and other institutional documents that disclose the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and institution prior to completing the enrollment process? |  |  |  |
| If the institution offers programs that prepare students for state licensing/certification examinations required for entering a profession, does the institution adequately inform each prospective student of licensing examination/certification requirements? |  |  |  |
| If the institution offers programs that prepare students for state licensing/certification examinations required for entering a profession, does the institution adequately inform each prospective student whether the program meets state or federal examination eligibility requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution admits students regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, or age. Institutions reasonably accommodate applicants and students with disabilities to the extent required by applicable laws.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have an adequate plan for providing reasonable accommodations to students who provide appropriate disability documentation? |  |  |  |
| If the institution has made accommodations for students, were they adequate based on required applicable laws? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Official transcripts, if required for admission, are received within one enrollment period not to exceed 12 semester credit hours, or the student is withdrawn from the program.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow a process for verifying that official transcripts are received within one enrollment period, not to exceed 12 semester credit hours? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution withdraw students when official transcripts are not received within one enrollment period, not to exceed 12 semester credit hours? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard VIII.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Student Identity Verification:** Student identity verification is initiated during the admissions process to verify that the admitted student who participates in and completes coursework and assessments is the same student who is awarded credit.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s student identity verification policy and practices adequate? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a process for verifying that the admitted student is the same student who completes coursework and assessments and is awarded credit? |  |  |  |
| **Standard VIII.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 32:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 32 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Compulsory Age Students:** An institution enrolling students under the compulsory school age obtains permission from responsible parties to assure that the pursuit of the educational offerings is not detrimental to any compulsory schooling.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution obtain permission from responsible parties prior to enrolling students under compulsory school age? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow a process for verifying and documenting that the pursuit of educational offerings by a compulsory school-aged student is not detrimental to any compulsory schooling? |  |  |  |
| **Standard VIII.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Admissions Criteria:** The institution’s admissions criteria aligns with its mission and student population served. The institution establishes qualifications that an applicant possesses prior to enrollment in order to successfully complete the stated educational offerings. The institution consistently and fairly applies its admission requirements. If an institution enrolls a student who does not meet the admissions criteria, the institution documents the reason(s) for the exception to the admissions criteria.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s admissions criteria align with its mission and the target student population served? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow an adequate process for developing admissions criteria that verify and document that prospective students possess identified qualifications in order to complete the stated educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately document that students meet established admissions criteria? |  |  |  |
| If the institution enrolls students who do not meet its established admissions criteria, are the institution’s policies and procedures for determining the basis for admittance adequate? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s documentation of admissions exceptions adequate and does it clearly indicate that students otherwise meet established admissions criteria? |  |  |  |
| Are admissions exceptions only made under limited and exceptional circumstances? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow reasonable measures for determining if prospective students’ physical limitations will prevent successful completion of the educational offerings? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 32:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 32 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Transcripts not in English are evaluated by an appropriate third party and translated into English or evaluated by a trained transcript evaluator fluent in the language on the transcript. Evaluators possess expertise in the educational practices of the country of origin and include an English translation of the review.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for evaluating transcripts that are not in English? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution publish appropriate admissions requirements for foreign transcript evaluation? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use appropriate third-party transcript evaluators? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s transcript evaluators possess expertise in the educational practices of the country of origin? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution’s admissions criteria disclose procedures for verifying appropriate language proficiencies. The institution verifies English language proficiency for applicants whose native language is not English and who have not earned a degree from an appropriately accredited institution where English is the principal language of instruction. Verification procedures align with DEAC’s guidance on English Language Proficiency Assessment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate processes for verifying published language proficiency requirements? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s foreign language verification procedures align with DEAC’s guidance on English Language Proficiency Assessment as disclosed in DEAC Handbook, Part Four: Appendices: Standard IX? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Non-Degree Programs

As appropriate for the students served and educational programs offered, the institution obtains official documentation that applicants possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent at the time of admission (e.g., high school diploma, general educational development tests [GED], or self-certification statement).

Institutions that implement self-certification procedures must:

* + - * Obtain a signed statement from the applicant attesting to a high school diploma or recognized equivalent;
      * Require applicants to provide the institution name, city, state, and year of graduation on the self-certification statement;
      * Develop and follow procedures to evaluate the validity of high school completion, or its equivalent, if the institution has reason to believe that the documentation was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education (e.g., general educational development tests or GED); and
      * Document that such practices are necessary to be consistent with the institution’s mission.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for admissions decisions for non-degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution allow self-certification? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows self-certification, are the policy and processes followed adequate for verification? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Undergraduate Degrees

The institution obtains official documentation that applicants possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent at the time of admission (e.g., high school diploma or general educational development tests [GED]). Institutions may implement self-certification in accordance with VIII.D.3.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for admissions decisions for undergraduate degree programs? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution allow self-certification? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows self-certification, are the policy and processes followed adequate for verification? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Master’s Degrees

At the time of admission, the institution obtains official documentation that applicants possess a bachelor’s degree earned from an appropriately accredited institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for admissions decisions for master’s degree programs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. First Professional Degrees

At the time of admission, the institution obtains documentation that applicants possess a bachelor’s or master’s degree earned from an appropriately accredited institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for admissions decisions for first professional degree programs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional Doctoral Degrees

At the time of admission, the institution obtains documentation that applicants possess a bachelor’s or master’s degree earned from an appropriately accredited institution and relevant academic experience. At a minimum, the institution verifies that applicants have completed 30 graduate-level credit hours prior to admission.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for admissions decisions for professional doctoral degree programs? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 VIII.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Admission Acceptance and Denial:** The institution informs applicants that they have been accepted for admission. The institution communicates with the applicant and documents the basis for any denial of admission.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for informing applicants of their acceptance or denial of admission? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately document the basis for any denial of admission? |  |  |  |
| **Standard VIII.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Transfer Credits and Experiential Learning:** The institution implements a fair and equitable transfer credit policy that is published in the catalog. The steps for requesting transfer credit are clear and disclose the documentation required for review. Students are able to appeal transfer credit decisions using published procedures. Transfer credit requests are not denied based solely on the source of accreditation of the credit-granting institution.

Credit awarded for experiential or equivalent learning, including challenge and test-out credits, cannot exceed 25 percent of the credits required for an undergraduate degree. Institutions maintain official documentation of the bases for decisions to award credit for experiential or equivalent learning.

An institution seeking to offer credit for prior learning assessment publishes evaluation standards consistent with CAEL’s Ten Standards for Assessing Learning. Prior learning assessment is performed by qualified individuals with experience in the evaluation of prior learning.

In instances where a student seeks to transfer more than the maximum allowable percentage of required credit hours specified in the relevant degree category listed in subsection F.2. through F.5. below, the institution must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the student’s credits earned and document how the credits align with its program outcomes. In such cases, transfer credit allowances may not exceed the lesser of any applicable state requirements or 90 percent of the credits required for undergraduate degrees, 75 percent of the credits required for master’s degrees or first professional degrees, or 40 percent of the credits required for professional doctoral degrees.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution’s transfer credit policy fair and equitable? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s transfer credit policy appropriately published? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s process for students requesting transfer credit adequate and consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution evaluate transfer credit in a manner consistent with accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain appropriate documentation to substantiate the award of transfer credits? |  |  |  |
| As appropriate for each program level offered, are transfer credit evaluations performed by qualified individuals with experience in evaluating transcripts? |  |  |  |
| Are individuals responsible for evaluating transfer credit appropriately trained? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution appropriately document the award of transfer credit in alignment with Standard VIII.F.1-5’s maximum allowable transfer credits? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution award credit for experiential learning? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow its evaluation criteria for awarding credit for experiential or prior learning? |  |  |  |
| As appropriate for each program level offered, is prior learning assessment performed by qualified individuals with experience in evaluating prior learning? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 33:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 33 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. High School

The institution may award a maximum of 75 percent of the credits required for a high school program.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish the maximum percentage of credits accepted for transfer into the high school program? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of credits awarded for transfer into the high school program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Undergraduate Degrees

The institution may award a maximum of 75 percent of the credits required for a degree program or a combination of transfer credit and experiential or equivalent credit (including challenge/test-out credits). Courses accepted for transfer credit are relevant to the program of study and equivalent in both content and degree level. Credit awarded for experiential or equivalent learning cannot exceed 25 percent of the credits required for a degree.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish the maximum percentage of credits accepted for transfer into an undergraduate degree program? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of credits awarded for transfer into the undergraduate degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of experiential or equivalent credits awarded for transfer into the undergraduate degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (75 percent), up to 90 percent as allowed by DEAC Standard VIII.F., does it have appropriate processes in place for the comprehensive assessment of credits earned? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (75 percent), does it adequately document that transfer credits align with its program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Master’s Degrees

The institution may award a maximum of 50 percent of the credits required for a master’s degree program through transfer credit. Courses accepted for transfer credit are relevant to the program of study and equivalent in both content and degree level. Credit awarded for experiential or equivalent learning cannot exceed 25 percent of the credits required for a master’s degree.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish the maximum percentage of credits accepted for transfer into a master’s degree program? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of credits awarded for transfer into a master’s degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of experiential or equivalent credits awarded for transfer into the master’s degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (50 percent), up to 75 percent as allowed by DEAC Standard VIII.F., does it have appropriate processes in place for the comprehensive assessment of credits earned? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (50 percent), does it adequately document that transfer credits align with its program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. First Professional Degrees

The institution may award a maximum of 50 percent of the credits required for a first professional degree program through transfer credit. Courses accepted for transfer credit are relevant to the program of study and equivalent in both content and degree level.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish the maximum percentage of credits accepted for transfer into a first professional degree program? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of credits awarded for transfer into a first professional degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (50 percent), up to 75 percent as allowed by DEAC Standard VIII.F., does it have appropriate processes in place for the comprehensive assessment of credits earned? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (50 percent), does it adequately document that transfer credits align with its program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Professional Doctoral Degrees

The institution may award a maximum of 15 percent of the credits required for a professional doctoral degree program (or nine semester credit hours for a 60 semester credit hour degree program) through transfer credit. Courses accepted for transfer credit are relevant to the program of study and equivalent in both content and degree level.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish the maximum percentage of credits accepted for transfer into a professional doctoral degree program? |  |  |  |
| Does the maximum percentage of credits awarded for transfer into a professional doctoral degree program meet DEAC standards? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (15 percent), up to 40 percent as allowed by DEAC Standard VIII.F., does it have appropriate processes in place for the comprehensive assessment of credits earned? |  |  |  |
| If the institution allows students to seek to transfer more than the maximum percentage typically allowed (15 percent), does it adequately document that transfer credits align with its program outcomes? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard VIII.F. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Enrollment Agreements:** The institution’s enrollment agreements/documents clearly identify the educational offering and assure that each applicant is fully informed of the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution prior to applicant signature. The institution complies with the DEAC Enrollment Agreements Disclosures Checklist.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s enrollment agreements or other similar contractual documents clearly identify the educational offerings? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s enrollment agreements or other similar contractual documents verify that each applicant is fully informed of the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution prior to the applicant’s signature? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution comply with the DEAC enrollment agreement disclosures checklist? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 34:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 34 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution requires that, prior to accepting the enrollment agreement, students affirm and accept the tuition refund policy and the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution. The terms of the tuition refund policy are published in the institution’s enrollment agreement, catalog, and website.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution require students to affirm and accept the tuition refund policy prior to accepting the enrollment agreement? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution disclose the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution prior to accepting the enrollment agreement? |  |  |  |
| Are the terms of the tuition refund policy published in the institution’s enrollment agreement or other similar contractual agreement, in the catalog, and on the website? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. An enrollment agreement is not binding until it has been submitted by the student and accepted by the institution. A copy of the accepted enrollment agreement is made available to the student within 10 days of acceptance and maintained as a part of the student’s record.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow a process for accepting enrollment agreements? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide students a copy of the accepted enrollment agreement within 10 days of acceptance? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain the enrollment agreement as a part of the student’s record? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution complies with the applicable Truth in Lending Act (TILA) requirements, including those under Regulation Z, and state requirements for retail installment agreements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Is the institution in compliance with applicable Truth in Lending Act (TILA) requirements, including those under Regulation Z, and state requirements for retail installment agreements? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution employ an individual responsible for verifying compliance with all Truth in Lending Act (TILA) requirements? |  |  |  |
| Does the identified individual participate in adequate activities to stay up to date on Truth in Lending Act (TILA) requirements? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. All required state and Truth in Lending Act disclosures are included on the enrollment agreement. Requirements for type size, notice to buyer and computations examples, as applicable, are observed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution publish all required state and Truth in Lending Act (TILA) disclosures on the enrollment agreement? |  |  |  |
| Do the published Truth in Lending Act (TILA) disclosures meet requirements for type size, notice to buyer, and computation examples, as applicable? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. If there is a separate payment contract, the contract is incorporated in the enrollment agreement.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution incorporate any separate payment contract into the enrollment agreement? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| **Standard VIII.G. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

## Standard IX: Financial Disclosures, Cancellations, and Refund Policies

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.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately disclose to prospective students prior to enrollment all costs associated with the education provided? |  |  |  |
| Do all costs associated with the education provided include tuition, educational services, textbooks, and instructional materials, as well as application, registration, authentication, proctoring, technology access, and library services fees? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 costs for optional services, such as expedited shipment of materials, experiential portfolio assessment, or other special services, such as dissertation binding, are clearly disclosed to prospective students as not subject to refund after the five (5) calendar day student-right-to-cancel enrollment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution adequately and clearly disclose to prospective students prior to enrollment all costs for optional services, such as expedited shipment, experiential portfolio assessment, or other special services? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution adequately publish that costs for identified optional services are not subject to refund after the five (5)-calendar-day student right to cancel enrollment? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution’s disclosure of its refund policy must include a sample refund calculation that describes the calculation methodology using clear and conspicuous language. Student acknowledgement of the refund policy is obtained and documented in the enrollment agreement or similar contractual document prior to enrollment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s refund policy include a sample refund calculation that describes the calculation methodology using clear and conspicuous language? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution obtain the applicant’s acknowledgement of the refund policy that is documented on the enrollment agreement or similar contractual document prior to enrollment? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IX.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Cancellations:** 
   1. Institutions must maintain, publish, and apply fair and equitable cancellation and withdrawal policies. A student’s notification of cancellation may be conveyed to the institution in any manner the institution deems appropriate so long as the method or methods chosen
      1. are in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements and
      2. do not create unreasonably difficult requirements for the student to satisfy.

Institutions must designate the manner in which students may submit cancellation or withdrawal notification and the individual, office, or offices to whom students may submit notice of official cancellation or withdrawal.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution describe its cancellation and withdrawal policies? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution describe how students are required to convey their cancellation or withdrawal to the institution? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution identify the individual, office, or offices to whom students may submit their notification? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s required method of cancellation/withdrawal notification in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements? |  |  |  |
| Can the institution’s required method of cancellation/withdrawal notification be reasonably satisfied by students? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. A student has five (5) calendar days after signing an enrollment agreement or similar contractual document to cancel enrollment and receive a full refund of all monies paid to the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Does the institution allow students a minimum of five (5) calendar days after signing an enrollment agreement or similar contractual document to cancel enrollment and receive a full refund of all monies paid to the institution? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. A student requesting cancellation more than five calendar days after signing an enrollment agreement, but prior to beginning a course or program is entitled to a refund of all monies paid minus:   
     + - An application/transfer credit evaluation fee of up to $75 and
       - A one-time registration fee per program of no more than 20% of the tuition and not to exceed more than $200.
       - Library services fee, if provided by a third-party service (e.g., LIRN, Westlaw, ProQuest, EBSCO)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do students who cancel more than five calendar days after signing an enrollment agreement but prior to beginning a course or program receive a refund of all monies paid minus an application fee, one-time registration fee, and third-party library services fee? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Upon cancellation, a student whose costs for education are paid in full, but who is not eligible for a refund, is entitled to receive all materials including kits and equipment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do students who cancel after paying in full but are not eligible for a refund receive all materials, kits, and equipment, as applicable? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. If promissory notes or enrollment agreements are sold to third parties, the institution ensures that it and any third parties comply with DEAC cancellation policies.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution ensure compliance with DEAC cancellation policies if promissory notes or enrollment agreements are sold to third parties? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard IX.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Refunds:** Each institution must have and implement a fair and equitable refund policy in compliance with state requirements or, in the absence of such requirements, in accordance with DEAC’s refund policy standards below and disclosed in the enrollment agreement or similar contractual document.

Any money due a student must be refunded within 30 days of a cancellation request, regardless of whether materials have been returned.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution implement a fair and equitable refund policy in compliance with state requirements or, in the absence of such requirements, in accordance with DEAC’s refund policy standards? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s refund policy published on its website? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s process adequate for refunding a student’s tuition after a cancellation, withdrawal, or course drop request is received? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution properly process refunds requested in the last 12 months, based on its published refund policy? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 34:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 34 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Flexible Time Schedule Refund Policy:** An institution that implements the flexible time schedule refund policy must clearly disclose the curriculum benchmarks in terms of assignments submitted for grading that indicate completion at 10 percent, 25 percent, and 50 percent intervals.

When a student cancels after completing at least one lesson assignment, but less than 50 percent of the graded assignments, the institution may retain the application fee and one-time registration fee of no more than 20 percent of the tuition (not to exceed $200), and library services fees, plus a percentage of tuition paid by the student in accordance with the published schedule.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| If the institution uses a flexible time schedule refund policy, do the curriculum benchmarks established by the institution indicate completion at 10 percent, 25 percent, and 50 percent intervals? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide an example of a refund calculation processed in the last calendar year based on the flexible time schedule refund policy? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s flexible time schedule refund policy fair and equitable to students? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Time-Based Term Refund Policy:** A time-based term last no more than 16 weeks.

A time-based term refund policy may be applied to any course, program, or degree. Institutions that utilize the time-based term refund policy must refund 100 percent of the tuition for any course never started. Institutions that implement the time-based term refund policy must clearly disclose the time-based refund schedule on the enrollment agreement.

When enrolling students in an academic program of study comprised of two or more courses that award semester credit hours, institutions must treat each course separately for the purposes of calculating the appropriate amount of tuition refund owed to the student.

When a student cancels enrollment, the institution may retain the application fee and a one-time registration fee of no more than 20 percent of the tuition (not to exceed $200), and library services fees, plus a percentage of tuition paid by the student in accordance with the published refund schedule.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide an example of a refund calculation processed in the last calendar year based on the time-based term refund policy? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s time-based term refund policy fair and equitable to students? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Refund Policy for In-Residence Courses/Programs:** For a course/program that includes mandatory in-residence training, the costs for the distance study portion and the costs for the in-residence portion must be separately stated in the enrollment agreement.

The distance study portion of the combination course/program must use the refund policy stated in Section IX(C)(1) or Section IX(C)(2). If the mandatory in-residence portion of the course/program is more than six weeks, the institution may use the time-based refund policy in Section IX(C)(2). If the in-residence portion is less than six weeks, the institution may use the flexible time schedule refund policy in IX(C)(1).

If a student requests cancellation after attending the first in-residence class session, the institution may retain the application fee and a one-time registration fee of no more than 20 percent of the tuition, not to exceed $200, and library service fees, plus a percentage of tuition paid by the student in accordance with the published refund schedule.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution conduct in-residence courses/programs? If not, this is not applicable. If the institution indicated that it does conduct in-residence courses/programs, refer to the institution’s In-Residence Program Companion document and complete the related Report Template. |  |  |  |

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| **Standard IX.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Discounts:** Discounted costs are permitted for well-defined groups for specific and bona fide purposes.

Discounted costs must indicate the actual reduction in the costs that would otherwise be charged by the institution. Institutions that offer discounts must demonstrate that students are enrolled in non-discounted courses or programs for a reasonably substantial period of time during each calendar year. An institution offering discounts must calculate refunds based on discounted costs.

An institution that offers discounts must demonstrate that:

* + - * All discounts or special offers identify the specific costs for a course or program.
      * The presentation of discounts and special offers complies with DEAC’s advertising and promotion standards.
      * All discounts (excluding those offered to well-defined groups) or special offers designate a specific expiration date and do not extend beyond the expiration date.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution offer discounts? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution identify well-defined groups that receive discounts? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution provide adequate reasoning for offering well-defined groups a discount? |  |  |  |
| Is information on discounts published in the institution’s advertising and marketing materials, including the catalog and website? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution enroll students in non-discounted courses or programs for a reasonably substantial period of time during each calendar year? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow its published refund policy when calculating refunds based on discounted costs? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IX.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Collections:** Collection procedures used by the institution or third parties reflect sound and ethical business practices. Tuition collection practices and procedures are fair, encourage students’ progress, and seek to retain their good will. Collection practices consider the rights and interests of the students and the institution.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution carry out collection procedures? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s collection procedures reflect sound and ethical business practices? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution carry out fair tuition collection practices that continue to encourage students’ progress and seek to retain their good will? |  |  |  |
| Do collection practices consider the rights and interests of the students and the institution? |  |  |  |
| **Standard IX.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 X: Institutional Governance

1. **Owners, Governing Board Members, Officials, and Administrators:** The institution’s owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators possess appropriate qualifications and experience for their positions and ability to oversee institutional operations. The owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators are knowledgeable and experienced in one or more aspects of educational administration, finance, teaching/learning, and distance study. The institution’s policies clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities of owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators. Individuals in leadership and managerial positions are qualified by education and experience.

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| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators knowledgeable and experienced in educational administration? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators knowledgeable and experienced in overseeing quality financial practices necessary for ensuring institutional stability? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators knowledgeable and experienced in ensuring quality teaching and learning? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators knowledgeable and experienced in ensuring quality educational offerings delivered via distance education? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have processes and policies that clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities of the owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution verify that all individuals in leadership and managerial positions are qualified by education and experience? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators remain current within the disciplines offered and the educational community? |  |  |  |
| **Standard X.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 35:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 35 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Reputation of Institution, Owners, Governing Board Members, Officials, and Administrators:** The institution and its owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators possess sound reputations, a record of integrity, and ethical conduct in their professional activities, business operations, and relations. The institution must promptly notify DEAC of any investigative, enforcement, legal or prosecutorial actions which may be initiated or which are current against the institution, its owners, governing board members, officials and administrators. Such notification shall include an explanation of the circumstances giving rise to such actions and the institution’s response to the same as well as its explanation of why such actions should not be deemed a concern with respect to the integrity of the named persons or institutions.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators possess sound reputations and records of integrity? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, and top institution administrators practice ethical conduct in their professional activities, business operations, and business relations? |  |  |  |
| Were any owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, or top institution administrators debarred by federal or state authorities from participating in any funding programs? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution certify that it will promptly notify DEAC of any investigative, enforcement, legal or prosecutorial actions which may be initiated against the institution, its owners, governing board members, officials and administrators and that such notification shall include an explanation of the circumstances giving rise to such actions and the institution’s response to the same as well as its explanation of why such actions should not be deemed a concern with respect to the integrity of the named persons or institutions? |  |  |  |
| **Standard X.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **Succession Plan:** The institution has written plans that describe the process that it follows in the event a leadership succession is necessary. The plan identifies specific people, committees, or boards responsible to carry on the operation of the institution during the transition period. The plan includes a business continuity structure that the institution can implement immediately. The institution reviews and revises the plan on an annual basis.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution’s succession plan identify events that would initiate a succession of leadership? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify the leadership, administrators, staff, committees, or boards responsible for carrying on its operations during the transition period? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s business continuity structure ensure that students’ education and services will not be disrupted during the transition period? |  |  |  |
| Are the business continuity procedures structured for immediate implementation, if necessary? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s succession plan reviewed and revised, as necessary, on a regular basis? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution involve appropriate individuals in reviewing and revising the succession plan? |  |  |  |
| **Standard X.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 36:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 36 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 XI: Financial Responsibility

1. **Financial Practices:** The institution shows it is financially responsible by providing complete, comparative financial statements covering its two most recent fiscal years and by demonstrating that it has sufficient resources to meet its financial obligations to provide quality instruction and service to its students. Financial statements are audited or reviewed and prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America or International Financial Reporting Standards. 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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s audited comparative or reviewed comparative financial statements demonstrate financial responsibility? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain sufficient resources to meet its financial obligations and provide quality educational offerings and service to students? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s financial statements regularly audited or reviewed? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America or International Financial Reporting Standards? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s budgeting processes adequate, and do they conform to accepted best practices? |  |  |  |
| Are the individuals responsible for creating and monitoring the institution’s budget qualified by education and experience? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution’s budgeting process document and verify that current and future operating results are sufficient to allow it to accomplish its mission and goals? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution profitable? For nonprofits, does the institution have an excess of revenues over costs? |  |  |  |
| If the institution is not profitable, did the institution develop strategic initiatives designed to achieve a positive operating result sufficient to fund future operations? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have the resources necessary to fulfill all obligations to students in the event that a teach-out is required? |  |  |  |
| Are the institution’s current assets sufficient to meet current liabilities? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use cost control and analysis systems to verify that it maintains sufficient current assets to fund a teach-out of students? |  |  |  |
| Have the institution’s owner(s) or governing board members ever declared bankruptcy? |  |  |  |
| If the institution is a sole proprietorship or partnership, have the owner(s), governing board members, chief executive officer, or top institution administrators have ever declared bankruptcy? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain reserves for honoring future service obligations, bad debts, and refunds? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XI.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 37-38:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 37-38 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 Management:** Individuals overseeing the fiscal and budgeting processes are qualified by education and experience. The institution employs adequate administrative staff for effective operations, and at least one person is qualified and able to prepare accurate financial reports in a timely manner. Internal auditing trails and controls are in place to assure that finances are properly managed, monitored, and protected. Adequate safeguards prevent unauthorized access to online and onsite financial information.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the individuals responsible for preparing the institution’s financial reports and budgets qualified by education and experience? |  |  |  |
| Are financial reports and budgets regularly prepared? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution employ an individual, internally or a third party, who is responsible for reviewing and approving financial reports and budgets? |  |  |  |
| Is bonding or insurance required to insure against fraudulent conduct? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s internal auditing and control processes verify that finances are properly managed, monitored, and protected? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate processes in place to protect online and on-site financial data from unauthorized access? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution take proactive steps to protect student and financial information from unauthorized access or threats? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s accounts payable (numbers, amounts, and age) reflect sound financial responsibility and management? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain adequate inventories of course or instructional materials for current and future students? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution maintain adequate insurance coverage? |  |  |  |
| Has the institution filed any significant insurance claims in the past three to five years? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XI.B. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 37, 39:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 39 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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:** The institution maintains adequate administrative staff and other resources to operate effectively as a going concern and is not exposed to undue or insurmountable risk. Any risk that exists is adequately monitored, manageable, and insured. In the event the financial operations of the institution are supported by a parent company or a third party, audited or reviewed financial statements are provided by the supporting entity to demonstrate that the supporting entity possesses sufficient financial resources to provide the institution continued financial sustainability, as well as the commitment to do so. 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.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution employ administrative staff qualified by education and experience to ensure that the institution can operate effectively as a going concern and is not exposed to undue or insurmountable risk? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate procedures in place to monitor, manage, and insure identified risks? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution supported by a parent company or third party? |  |  |  |
| If the institution is supported by a parent company or third party, is the supporting entity’s level of administrative and financial involvement adequate to promote the institution’s continued financial sustainability? |  |  |  |
| Is the parent company or third party’s stated commitment to supporting the institution sufficient? |  |  |  |
| Does the parent company or third party possess sufficient financial resources and commitment to provide the institution continued financial sustainability? |  |  |  |
| If the institution’s financial performance is included within the parent corporation or third party’s financial statements, did the institution provide adequate supplemental schedules disclosing its individual financial status? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XI.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 39:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 39 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 Reporting:** Financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America often referred to as “GAAP,” including the accrual method of accounting. An independent certified public accountants (CPA) audit or review report accompanies these statements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Are the institution’s financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution use the accrual method of accounting? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s independent auditing firm qualified and experienced? |  |  |  |
| Did the independent auditor identify any deviations while conducting the institution’s audit? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution identify how it plans to address and resolve any identified challenges, anomalies, or threats? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have procedures that enable it to continue operations if it received a going concern or liquidity footnote opinion from the independent auditing firm? |  |  |  |
| If a going concern or liquidity uncertainty was resolved through continued shareholder support, did the institution explain why the independent auditing firm did not accept the support as sufficient to avoid the going concern opinion or liquidity note? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 40:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 40 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 institution’s financial statements reflect sufficient liquid assets to provide for a staff and faculty.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s financial statements reflect sufficient liquid assets to provide for staff and faculty? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. Annually, the institution has the option of submitting one of these two types of financial statements, unless the Commission directs the institution to submit audited financial statements:
     + - Audited comparative financial statements containing an audit opinion by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institution of Certified Public Accountants, or
       - Reviewed comparative financial statements containing a review report by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

When circumstances raise a concern as to the financial soundness and stability of an institution, the Commission may, in its discretion, require that the institution deliver within a specified period of time (as reasonably determined by the Commission taking into account, for example, the exigency of the concerns and the size of the institution), audited comparative financial statements or such other financial documentation as the Commission may determine will provide information as to the institution’s financial health and status.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution provide either audited comparative or reviewed comparative financial statements in accordance with the above definitions? |  |  |  |
| Did the institution certify that it understands that the Commission may, in its discretion, require that the institution deliver audited comparative financial statements or such other financial documentation as determined necessary, when circumstances raise question as to the institution’s financial soundness and stability? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 37:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 37 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 statements submitted must include the institution’s fiscal statement for either the most recent fiscal year end or the date specified by the Commission, the CPA’s opinion letter or review report, and a letter of financial statement validation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Did the institution submit its most recent fiscal year end audited comparative or reviewed comparative financial statements, opinion letter or review report, and letter of financial statement validation? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard XI.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Demonstrated Operations:** In all respects, the institution documents continuous sound and ethical operations, including the necessary resources to accommodate demand and assure all learners receive a quality educational experience. The institution’s name is free from any association with activity that could damage the reputation of the DEAC accrediting process, such as illegal actions, fraud, unethical conduct, or abuse of consumers.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution maintain continuous sound and ethical operations? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution provide the resources necessary to accommodate student demand and ensure that all learners receive a quality distance education experience? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution free from any association with activity that could damage the standing of the accrediting process (e.g., illegal actions, unethical conduct, or abuse of consumers)? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XI.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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 XII: Facilities, Equipment, Supplies, Record Protection and Retention

1. **Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies:** The institution maintains sufficient facilities, equipment, and supplies to achieve its mission and values and support its educational offerings and future operations. A written plan outlines the maintenance and upgrade of facilities, equipment, and supplies, and includes a disaster response and recovery plan. The plan states the resources that are budgeted to support its goals. Buildings, workspace, and equipment comply with local fire, building, health, and safety regulations and are appropriately equipped to handle the educational program(s) of the institution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do the institution’s facilities, equipment, and supplies promote the achievement of its mission and values? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s facilities, equipment, and supplies support its educational offerings and future operations? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have a sufficient plan for maintenance that includes upgrades of its facilities, equipment, and supplies? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate disaster response and recovery procedures based on its geographical location? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate financial resources and budgets to maintain and upgrade its facilities and equipment? |  |  |  |
| Is the institution’s technical infrastructure adequate to provide timely delivery of distance education and support services to accommodate future student enrollment growth? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s building, workspace, and equipment comply with local fire, building, health, and safety regulations? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution have adequate professional liability, property, and general liability insurance? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XII.A. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 41:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 41 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **In-Residence Program Component:** The institution provides appropriate training facilities for students participating in in-residence training and information on housing, as applicable. The facilities are in compliance with all state and federal requirements. The institution maintains adequate insurance to protect students, faculty, and staff while participating in in-residence training.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution conduct in-residence program components? If not, this is not applicable. If the institution indicated that it does conduct in-residence program components, refer to the institution’s In-Residence Program Companion document and complete the related Report Template. |  |  |  |

1. **Record Protection:** The institution’s financial, administrative, and student educational records are maintained in a reasonably accessible place and are adequately protected in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have adequate procedures for maintaining financial, administrative, and student records? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow proactive steps to protect financial, administrative, and student information from unauthorized access or threats? |  |  |  |
| Do the institution’s record maintenance and protection procedures comply with applicable federal and state laws? |  |  |  |
| Are physical records adequately secured on site? |  |  |  |
| Are digital records adequately secured and backed up to minimize data loss? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. If maintaining documents electronically, the institution provides audit records to verify that the images were properly created and validated.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for properly creating and validating digital records? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. If an institution accepts digitally signed transcripts or electronically transferred verified data from an outside source, the institution documents the outside source using a system that provides registration and verification of participants, protocols for securely sending and receiving files, logging of file transmissions, and electronic notification. The outside source complies with all applicable laws and regulations governing the activities and services provided, including FERPA and other laws concerning the privacy and confidentiality of information and records.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution have an adequate process in place for accepting digital signatures on electronically processed documents (e.g., official transcripts, enrollment agreements)? |  |  |  |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures to ensure students that all transmitted information is adequately protected and in compliance with FERPA and other laws concerning privacy and confidentiality of student data? |  |  |  |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Standard XII.C. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. |

1. **Record Retention:** The institution’s financial, administrative, and student educational records are retained in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The institution implements a comprehensive document retention policy.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Does the institution follow adequate procedures for retaining financial, administrative, and student records in accordance with applicable federal and state laws? |  |  |  |
| 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 who is 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? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XII.D. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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. **State Authorization:**
   1. The institution is properly licensed, authorized, exempted, or approved by all applicable state education institutional authorizations (or their equivalent for non-U.S. institutions).
   2. Exemptions from state law are supported by state-issued documentation or in statutory language for that state.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 describe the state-issued documentation or statutory language used to determine its exemption? |  |  |  |
| **Standard XII.E. – Standard is Evident, Emerging, Not Evident, or Not Applicable** | Choose a finding. | | |

**Comments:** Provide comments to support the finding based on the institution’s responses and evidence included the Self-Evaluation Report.

**Required Actions:** Provide the required actions necessary for the institution to demonstrate compliance with the DEAC accreditation standard. Each required action must correspond to an accreditation standard or core component. The initial applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**Exhibit 3:** Provide detailed feedback for Exhibit 3 related to this core component. The applicant institution uses this feedback to strengthen its documentation, processes, and procedures.

**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.