



Number 17
December 2, 2011

Report from the Accrediting Commission

The DETC Accrediting Commission met on December 1, 2011 and took the following actions:

Final Approval of Standards, Policies, and Procedures

The Commission voted to give final adoption to the following new policy documents. To view the new documents, go to DETC's website (www.detc.org) and follow the link from the homepage. All policies take effect immediately and all institutions must be in full compliance by **January 1, 2012**:

The Commission met on December 1st and adopted two new policies, two new application forms, and several clarifications to standards, policies, and procedures.

1. C.29. Policy on Contracting for Educational Delivery
2. C.30. Policy on High School Programs

Additional Adoptions of Forms and Policies:

In addition, the Commission voted to give final adoption to the following new applications that were created to accompany existing policies and to the revised policies (revisions were to include the new applications):

3. New Application (E.15.) for Change of Location or New Administrative Site
4. Revised C.4. Policy on Change of Location or New Administrative Site (to reflect addition of new application (E.15))
5. New Application (E.16.) for New Combination Distance Study-Resident Programs or Training Sites
6. Revised C.7. Policy on Approval of New Combination Distance Study-Resident Programs or Training Sites (to reflect addition of new application (E.16.))

In addition, the following documents had minor editorial changes that were given final adoption:

New proposed changes to standards and policies were approved for public comment. Comments must be received by DETC by **January 6, 2012**.

7. Clarification of Accreditation Standards
8. Clarification of Business Standards
9. Clarification of C.1. Policy on Substantive Change and Notification (added paragraph on page 2 on what would constitute a total re-evaluation of an institution)
10. Clarification of D.10. Selection and Training of Commissioners

(over please)

11. Revised C.15. Policy on Institutions Participating in Title IV (added section on reaccreditation)
12. Revised E.1. Fees (updated page 3 to reflect new application fees)

New Proposed Policies (call for public comment by January 6, 2012)

The Commission approved the following changes. The public is herewith provided the opportunity to review and comment on these changes before consideration is given to final approval on January 20, 2012. To view the new documents in their entirety, go to DETC's website (www.detc.org) and follow the link from the homepage:

- **New Business Standard: II. Student Enrollment, A. Enrollment Agreements**
 2. If the institution enrolls a student into a program, the enrollment agreement must cover the obligations of both parties for the entire program. If the institution enrolls a student into a single course then the enrollment agreement must cover the obligations of both parties for the particular course in which the student is enrolling. If the institution enrolls a student into one or more courses within a term, the enrollment agreement must cover the obligations of both parties for that particular term (see III.A. for refunds).
- **C.9. Policy on Degree Programs:** Addition to page 13 under "When Applicant's Native Language is other than English" – Add "A minimum B1 English proficiency level identified within the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) standards and assessed through various ESOL examinations, including the University of Cambridge" to the list of how an applicant must demonstrate college-level proficiency in English:
- **C.9. Policy on Degree Programs:** Addition to pages 14-15 under "Experiential Equivalent Credit" add requirements for published evaluation standards similar to those provided by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL).

Any comments on the above new policies should be sent to Sally Welch at DETC (sally@detc.org) before **January 6, 2012**. Please insert "Comments on Changes" in the subject line of your e-mail. Final adoption of these policies will be considered by the Commission at its meeting on January 19-20, 2012.

Reminder on Consumer Information Disclosure: January 1, 2012 Deadline

We wrote to all DETC institutions to alert them that, effective January 1, 2012, all institutions will need to be *disclosing their outcomes to the public and prospective students* in a conspicuous manner on their websites.

This is a reminder to be sure your disclosures will be in place next month. Your website (and other publications as you may elect) will have to disclose your student and graduate outcomes performance data.

To help you in formatting this information for public consumption, DETC has, for many years, published a voluntary DETC [Consumer Information Disclosure form](#) (*note: link opens a downloadable word document*) that you might choose to use. In addition to this form, DETC will accept comparable disclosure forms like that used for Transparency by Design. Where the DETC template says: "Average Completion/Graduation Rate for Students," *you must also* provide a link to the graduation rates for all programs.

The **Consumer Information Disclosure** form has at the bottom a header that says "Other Disclosures of Outcomes." These are optional disclosures, left to your discretion. It is in this section of the form that you have the ability to disclose your unique measures of student learning attainment beyond the traditional output measures.

Consumer disclosure is one more way that will help DETC institutions show why we are the leading distance education and training providers in the nation. Remember, you will need to be in compliance with this requirement *by no later than January 1, 2012*.

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director