



Summary of Proposed Changes and Fifteen Standards

Standard I: Mission

DEAC's accreditation and evaluative processes focus on institution mission and how this provides a clear sense of institutional direction and identity in the distance education community.

Standard II: Governance

Relocated from Standard X, this requirement maintains the same three core components and adds state authorization (from current Standard XII) as a feature of ongoing eligibility for accreditation.

Standard III: Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

This standard includes effectiveness in achieving mission currently listed under Standard I and maintains the requirements for institutional effectiveness assessment and strategic planning.

Standard IV: Academic Achievement

Relocated from the current requirements under Standard V, this standard retains the core components and strengthens the context of direct and indirect measures. Performance disclosures are relocated to Standard XIII.E.

Standard V: Academic Program Requirements

More than any other standard, the current Standard III was revised and redistributed into more precise areas of focus. Standard V focuses on the academic aspects of program delivery, alternative program structures, and program advisory councils.

Standard VI: Curriculum Development

Pulled from the content currently located under Standard III, this standard brings instructional design to the forefront while maintaining current requirements for academic units of measurement and the credit hour definition.

Standard VII: Learning Materials and Resources

This language is drawn from the requirements currently located in Standard III.G and adds a component for the evaluation, review and revision of library resources.

Standard VIII: Academic Delivery

A new standard, this language focuses on distance learning modalities and supporting academic technologies.

Standard IX: Academic Leadership and Staffing

Drawn from language currently included under Standard VI, this standard retains much of the current requirements to include faculty qualification equivalency.

Standard X: Academic Policies

This standard includes content from current Standards III and VIII. The proctoring standard is removed. Transfer of credit and prior learning assessment requirements are streamlined.

Standard XI: Recruitment and Enrollment

This standard includes elements of Standard VII, and provides a clear delineation between scholarships from tuition discounts.

Standard XII: Student Support Services

A portion of this content is drawn from current Standard IV, educational and student support services.

Standard XIII: Fair Practices

This is a new standard category that draws attention to transparency, fairness and confidentiality. DEAC is maintaining the same requirements for processing student complaints. Advertising requirements have been streamlined. Specifics related to term-based and flexible time-based refund policies that are used in lieu of state refund policies are to be relocated to the DEAC Appendices under Part Four of the Accreditation Handbook.

Standard XIV: Finance

This standard retains most of the content currently located under Standard XI, Financial Responsibility. The most significant change is the requirement that all institutions are to submit audited financial statements at least annually.

Standard XV: Facilities and Record Maintenance

Drawn from the content currently located under Standard XII, this standard strengthens requirements for the protection of virtual infrastructures.