



Accreditation Standards

Standard One – Mission, Core Themes, and Expectations

The institution articulates its purpose in the form of a mission statement and identifies core themes that manifest essential elements of that mission. It defines mission fulfillment in the context of its purpose, characteristics, and expectations. Guided by that definition, it identifies an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment.

Standard Two – Resources and Capacity

By documenting the adequacy of its resources and capacity, the institution exhibits the potential to fulfill its mission, accomplish its core theme objectives, and achieve the goals or intended outcomes of its programs and services, wherever offered and however delivered. Through its governance and decision-making structures, the institution establishes, reviews regularly, and revises, as necessary, policies and procedures which promote effective management and operation of the institution.

Standard Three – Planning and Implementation

The institution engages in ongoing participatory planning that provides direction for the institution and leads to fulfillment of its mission, accomplishment of its core theme objectives, and achievement of the identified goals or intended outcomes of its programs and services. The resulting plans reflect the interdependent nature of its operations, functions, and resources in achieving intended results. The institution demonstrates that its planning and implementation processes are sufficiently flexible to address unexpected circumstances with the potential to impact the institution's capacity to accomplish its core theme objectives and fulfill its mission. It demonstrates that its plans are implemented and influence practice, resource allocation, and application of institutional capacity.

Standard Four – Effectiveness and Improvement

The institution collects data related to clearly-defined indicators of achievement, analyzes those data, and forms evidence-based judgments of achievements of core theme objectives. It regularly and systematically applies clearly-defined evaluation procedures to appraise the relationship of institutional planning, resources, capacity, and practices to the objectives of its core themes; and assesses the extent to which it accomplishes those objectives and achieves the goals or intended outcomes of its programs and services. It uses assessment results to effect improvement and disseminates its findings to its constituencies.

Standard Five – Mission Fulfillment, Adaptation, and Sustainability

Based on its definition of mission fulfillment and informed by the results of its analysis of accomplishments of its core theme objectives, the institution develops and publishes evidence-based judgments regarding fulfillment of its mission. The institution regularly monitors its internal and external environments to determine how and to what degree changing circumstances may impact its mission and its ability to fulfill that mission. It demonstrates a capability to adapt as necessary its mission, core themes, programs, and services to accommodate changing and emerging needs, trends, and influences to ensure enduring institutional relevancy, productivity, viability, and sustainability.