



Comment

To: ACCSC-Accredited Institutions and Other Interested Parties
From: Michale S. McComis, Ed.D., Executive Director
Date: June 16, 2010
Subject: Proposed Revisions to the ACCSC *Standards of Accreditation* and Schools to be Considered at the May 2010 Meeting

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) presents the following topics for comment by the ACCSC membership and other interested parties:

- *Schools to be Considered List for the August 2010 Meeting Available Online*
- *Proposed Revision to Section II (B)(3)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation – Baccalaureate Degree Concentrations*

The Commission welcomes and encourages the comments of accredited institutions and other interested parties and wishes to emphasize that thoughtful comments are important and that the Commission will give careful consideration to those comments received. With regard to the proposed revision to the *Standards of Accreditation*, the Commission encourages all interested parties to read carefully the proposed revision and to submit comments and recommendations for consideration by the Commission. After considering the written comments, the Commission may adopt the revision as proposed, adopt the revision with additional changes, defer action for further study and consideration, or reject the proposed revision. If the Commission adopts the revision, ACCSC will establish an effective date allowing reasonable time for institutions to come into compliance.

The submission of comments should be in the form of a scanned document on letterhead with the signature of the commenter and sent to the appropriate ACCSC staff as follows:

- Written comments regarding the schools to be considered for the August 2010 meeting are due by **July 9, 2010** and sent to the attention of Bettina Falwell, Manager of Accreditation Operations, via e-mail at bfalwell@accsc.org.
- Written comments regarding the proposed standard revision included in this Call for Comment are due by **July 15, 2010** and should be sent to the attention of Juanita Gurubatham, Ph.D., Director of Institutional Review and Development, via e-mail at jgurubatham@accsc.org.

For assistance or additional information regarding this Call for Comment, please contact Michale S. McComis, Ed.D., Executive Director, at 703.247.4520 or via e-mail at mccomis@accsc.org.

Schools to Be Considered List for the August 2010 Meeting Available Online

ACCSC has prepared and published a list of the schools scheduled for consideration at the Commission's August 2010 meeting. Reviews scheduled for the August 2010 meeting include, but are not limited to, those schools that have undergone evaluations for initial and renewal applications for accreditation; substantive changes such as the addition of new programs (i.e., non-degree, degree, and distance education); changes of location; changes of ownership; the addition of separate facilities; and other reviews as may have been deemed necessary by the Commission.

The *Schools to be Considered List* for the August 2010 meeting can be found on Commission's website at the following URL: <http://www.accsc.org/Content/CommissionActions/ConsideredSchools.asp>

Proposed Revision to Section II (B)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation – Baccalaureate Degrees

As institutions consider new program offerings, it is often advantageous to add new courses or modify existing courses in current programs to create new configurations that will meet the training needs of prospective students and potential employers. Additionally, schools may find it useful to modify an approved curriculum in order to allow students to select a "track" or "emphasis" beyond the core requirements of an existing program.

In order to facilitate these opportunities, the Commission initiated a pilot study in November 2009 as a means to explore ways to support flexibility in programmatic curricular variations while continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of the overall program. Seven member institutions participated in the pilot study, developing concentrations within existing baccalaureate degree programs through an Application for Substantive Program Modification-Addition of a Concentration. Based on the review of the proposed programs and feedback from the pilot study participants, the Commission proposes to change its program requirements to allow within the technical/occupational curriculum of a baccalaureate degree a core curriculum with one or more concentrations, consisting of related courses that support an in-depth study or focus in an area related to the overall degree. For example, a business degree might have concentrations in accounting, marketing, and finance.

Accordingly, the Commission recommends the following revisions to *Section II (B)(3)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*, which are intended to provide curricular parameters for concentrations in baccalaureate degree programs (new language in **bold** and *italic*, print deleted language indicated by ~~strikethrough~~):

Section II (B)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation establishes the criteria for a baccalaureate degree program as follows:

3. Baccalaureate Degrees

- d. ***A baccalaureate degree program shall include a*** ~~A~~ minimum of 60 semester *credit* hours or 90 quarter *credit* hours ~~must that represent courses in the occupational~~ ~~be in the technical~~ field for which the degree is awarded. ***Within those occupationally related courses, a school may offer one or more concentrations, which provide a focused area of training and establish specialized learning experiences beyond the generalist level. Concentrations must consist of 18-24 semester credit hours (27-36 quarter credit hours) of occupationally specialized course work of which, at a minimum, nine semester credit hours (13.5 quarter credit hours) represent upper level coursework.***