**A school MUST currently have ACCSC approval to offer programs/courses via distance education[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**This application may be submitted for the following:**

* For schools that currently offer general education courses online in one for more program and plan to expand distance education to include technical courses online in one or more programs;
* To change the delivery method to distance education for existing programs or courses of study currently offered by the school; and
* For the approval of distance education delivery for proposed new degree or non-degree programs[[2]](#footnote-3) (*Section IV (E)(6)(a)(v), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation)*.

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION - PLEASE REVEW PRIOR TO SUBMISSION:**

1. The school must ensure that the **Payment Submission Form** of this application is included and identifies the correct fee amount, check information, and indicates the correct and applicable school(s).

2. The school must provide a response and all appropriate supporting documentation to all items below. The Commission may not process the application and may require a new submission from the school if the application is found to be incomplete.

3. The completed application should not exceed **100 pages** total and should include only the required information. Do not provide copies of the school catalog or information that does not pertain to the items in this application.

4. Prior to final submission of this application, review the entire submission to ensure that all required information is provided, that all intended attachments are included, and that the submission is free of errors and typos.

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Electronic Submissions may not be transmitted to the Commission via e-mail.
2. The school’s response must be prepared in accordance with ACCSC’s [Instructions for Electronic Submission](http://www.accsc.org/UploadedDocuments/Instructions%20for%20Electronic%20Submission%204%201%202014%20web.docx) (e.g., prepared as one Portable Document Format (“PDF”) file that has been prepared using Adobe Acrobat software (version 8.0 or higher) and which has a .pdf extension as part of the file name). The school will receive an e-mail confirmation that the file has been received within 24 hours of the submission.
3. Please visit the ACCSC website for specific resources and guidance regarding how to successfully complete this application: [Forms and Reports](https://www.accsc.org/Forms-and-Reports/Forms-And-Reports.aspx)-Guidance/Sample Applications.ACCSC encourages the school to review this module prior to submitting this application.
4. Additionally, **do not copy and paste** answers from previous applications.

**I certify that the information herein and attached hereto is correct and that distance education offerings have not been described in the catalog, advertised, or offered to students.**

**I have read and understand the Guidelines for Submission and the Electronic Document Format Requirements set forth above and I further understand that a failure to adhere to these guidelines and requirements will result in either a delay in the processing of or return of this application.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Signature** | **Title** | **Date** |
|  |  |  |  |

**This application may be submitted for the addition of up to five (5) programs per application to be offered via distance education and is limited to one school per application.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School #** | **School Name** | **Type** | **City** | **State** | **Degree Granting** |
|  |  | Main: | [ ]  |  |  | YES | [ ]  |
| Branch: | [ ]  | NO | [ ]  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Contact Person** | **Phone** | **Email** |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program Title***(e.g. Business Administration)* | **Length of Program***(in Months)* | **Full Credential & Abbreviation** | **Proposed Start Date***(month/day/year)* |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Instructional Hours** | **Total Instructional Hours & Outside Prep Hours** | **Total Credit Hours** | **Externship Information (***Externship hours as listed on the Program Outline; may include multiple courses***)** |
| **Semester Credit** | **Quarter Credit** |  | **Externship**  | **Clinical**  |
| **Clock** | **Credit** | **Clock** | **Credit** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  | **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  | **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  | **4** |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  | **5** |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ☐ | 100% Online/Residential: The school will offer a fully online version **AND** a residential version of the program. |
|  | List the applicable programs:  |
| ☐ | 100% Online: The school will offer **only** a fully online version of the program. |
|  | List the applicable programs: |
| ☐ | Less Than 100% Online: The school will offer a **hybrid**/ **blended program** with some courses fully online and some residential or some/all courses with a blended format. |
|  | List the applicable programs:  |

**Application Processing fee**

Please mail a check directly to ACCSC for processing and include a statement identifying the corresponding applications(s). **Note**: Please ensure that the **Payment Submission Form** for this application is included and identifies the corresponding application(s), fee amount, and check number.

* Processing Fee of $500 per application.

Please note that should an application be deemed incomplete, the school will receive a request for additional information via email. If upon review of the additional information, the application is still incomplete, the school will receive a deferral letter requesting additional information and the school will be assessed a $150 application deferral fee for the submission of the additional information, which must be paid upon the submission of the additional information response.

**State Approval**

**A. Documentation of State Authorization** (*Section IX (A)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*):

1. Provide a list of states that the school plans to enroll students from.
2. Provide documentation from the home state (or applicable regulatory agency) demonstrating approval for the distance education program(s)/course(s) of study or the change in the method of delivery to an existing program.

**-and/or -**

If the home state (or applicable regulatory agency) does not require approval of distance education, evidence from the agency to that effect must be submitted. In addition, if the state requires Commission approval prior to issuing state approval, please provide documentation demonstrating the school is currently recognized by the state via licensure by means of accreditation.

1. If the school intends to enroll students who are *outside of the home state*, describe the policy and procedures for determining and complying with the state requirements for enrolling students outside the home state **and** describe the school’s plans to meet the state requirements of the state(s) where the school plans to enroll students, including the home state.

**-and/or-**

If the state(s) does not require approval, provide evidence to that effect.

1. If the school plans to use an off-site location to house support services for the operation of the distance education program the school is required to complete and submit the Application for a Distance Education Facility as outlined in *Section IV (E) (5)(c), Rules of Process and Procedure and Section VIII (A)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*.

**Program Information**

**B. Distance Education Program Design, Development, and Organization** (*Section IX (B &D), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Describe how the school has determined each of the proposed program(s)/course(s) will succeed when offered via distance education delivery?
2. Describe the plans for the school’s ongoing process to assess the appropriateness to offer the program(s)/course(s) of study via distance education.
3. Submit an Outline of a Degree Program, Non-Degree Program **or** the Allocation of Hours for Clock Hour Programs (for Clock hour only programs), as applicable (available on the ACCSC website) [[3]](#footnote-4) (Note: Course credit hours may only round down to the nearest whole or half credit.)

**C. Instructional Materials and Equipment for the Program** (*Section II (A)(5), Section IX (D) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Describe how the school will ensure that the infrastructure including facilities, equipment, technology, and other resources associated with distance education program are appropriate to the subject matter of the program(s)/course(s) of study.
2. Explain how the equipment and technology in the online program is sufficient, current, comprehensive, and appropriate to the subject matter.
3. Explain how the resources, including equipment and technology associated with the specific program/courses will be accessible to students (i.e. utilized for laboratory hours, if applicable).
4. Provide specific and defined policies, procedures, and methods used to track student attendance and successful completion of hours earned via distance learning (**please be reminded, time used to complete out-of-class or outside work cannot be counted toward online in-class attendance**.)
5. Describe how the school will ensure **regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students** (i.e. direct instruction, assessing feedback on student coursework, providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency, facilitating a group discussion, or other instructional activities approved by the institution or program’s accrediting agency) (*Section IX (D) (4) and (G) (4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
6. Describe how the school will ensure **ongoing academic engagement, initiated by faculty, between faculty and student** and provide examples how the types of academic engagement that will take place in the online setting, to include, but not limited to: submitting online assignments, taking an exam, participating in interactive tutorial and webinars, participating in group study or group projects, and one-on-one discussion between faculty and student (*Section IX (D) (4) and (G) (4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
7. Provide a copy of the school’s authentication policy, which ensures that the student who is enrolled in a distance education program or course of study is the same student who participates in class discussions, completes all required coursework, including quizzes, tests and exams, and receives the academic credit (*Section IX (B) (4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
8. Explain how the school implements the authentication policy for students in a Distance Education program (*Section IX (B)(4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

**D. Method of Online Delivery** (*Section IX (D) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Describe the learning management system to be utilized for the proposed distance education program(s)/course(s) of study.
2. Please include information regarding how **faculty** use the LMS to:
	* Access course content,
	* Manage course content,
	* Communicate with students,
	* Manage student access to all course content and resources (i.e., e-textbooks for the course, assignments and course syllabi, grades, technical support, and LRS resources.)
3. Provide a URL with a temporary user ID and password (that will not expire) that can be used to access and review the distance education delivery system (as a student) **and** ensure that the school includes at least one sample course to access through the learning management system.
4. How has the school determined that student services (advising, career services, financial aid, etc.) are accessible and adequate for students who will be attending distance education program(s)/course(s)?

**Institutional Preparation for Expansion of Distance Education**

**E. Faculty Training** (*Section IX (G), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Describe how the school provides orientation and training for faculty who will teach using distance education methods **and** explain how this orientation addresses teaching skills and instructional methods in a distance education environment.
2. Describe the school’s policies, measures, and procedures to be used to evaluate the performance and needs of faculty members in a distance education program(s)/course(s) of study.
3. Provide a copy of the school’s policies on ownership of instruction materials and protection of copyright. Describe how the school adheres to these policies.
4. Explain how the school will assess faculty effectiveness in distance education program(s)/course(s) of study.
5. Using the following chart demonstrate that the faculty have the qualifications and the experience to teach using **distance education methods** and that the faculty has completed the orientation and training in accordance with *Section III (B)(4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*, which specifically addresses teaching skills and instruction methods in a distance education environment (*Section IX (G)(1)&(2), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

|  |
| --- |
| **Program:**  |
| **FACULTY TEACHING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES**  |
| **Instructor Name(s)** | **Proposed Online Program(s)** | **Credential Earned***Include: Subject, Credential, Year & Institution(s)* | **Distance Education Related** **Teaching Experience and training** |
|  |  |  | Job Title, Place of EmploymentDescription of Distance Education Experience/Training | **From** *(m/y)* | **To** *(m/y)* |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**F. Program Advisory Committee** (*Section II (A)(4 (b) (i), Section IX (D)(6) & Appendix III, Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*):

1. Provide a list of the Program Advisory Committee members (**Note***: Program Advisory Committees must be comprised of appropriately qualified representatives external to the institution (****i.e., non-school employees***)) for each program or group of related programs, using the following chart. Membership must include at least one member who is qualified to review and comment on the school’s **distance education platform**, methods, processes, procedures, and infrastructure in the context of program/course content and objectives(*Section IX (D)(6), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)*.* Note: **PAC minutes must demonstrate that the programs’ distance education reviewer is present during regularly scheduled PAC meetings and specifically when distance education elements of an online program are discussed and reviewed by the PAC. In addition, the school should not have a separate Advisory Committee to evaluate Distance Education.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School Name:**  | **School Number:** |
| **Program Name:**  | **Credential:** |
| **PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE** |
| **Advisory Committee Member’s Name** | **Title****Company****Address****City, State** | **Telephone Number****Email Address** | **Review Responsibilities***(check as applicable)* |
| Employer / Practitioner | Educator, Regulator, etc. | Master’s degree | Distance Education |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Describe how the Distance Education PAC member(s) identified in the chart above has the qualifications and experience to adequately review and comment on the school’s distance education platform, methods, processes, procedures, and infrastructure in the context of the program/course content and objectives
2. Submit at least one copy of PAC meeting minute(s) to demonstrate the committee’s review and comments on the proposed distance education curriculum including the appropriateness of the distance education platform, processes, procedures, and infrastructure (*Section II (A)(4)(b) (i), Appendix III, Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). The distance education PAC member(s) commentary and review cannot be separate from the full PAC meeting commentary and review.

**G. Learning Resource System** (*Section II (A) (6)(d) and Section IX (D)(5), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Explain how students will have access to learning resources equivalent to access available to students in residential programs at the school.
2. Describe the training and support services that the school will provide students to facilitate access to learning resource materials.
3. If the school plans to hire a learning resource system (LRS) supervisor, submit the specific hiring criteria to be used and the timeline for when the position will be filled.

**-or-**

If the LRS Supervisor has already been hired, complete the following chart and demonstrate that the school has an individual qualified to oversee and supervise the learning resource system (*Section II (A)(6)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School Name:**  | **School Number:** |
| **LRS SUPERVISOR** |
| **Staff Name** | **Position** | **Degree/Credential Earned** *(Year)* | **Description of Work Experience and/or Training for the Position including Distance Education training** | **From** *(m/y)* | **To (***m/y)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**H. Management and Administration** (*Section III (A) (1) and Section IX (B), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*):

1. Describe how the school has enhanced the distance education administrative capacity and infrastructure to support the expansion of distance education offerings.
2. If the school plans to hire any other additional staff who will oversee the school distance education, submit the specific hiring criteria to be used for the selection of the distance education administrator(s) and the timeline for when the position(s) will be filled.

**-or-**

If the distance education administration team is already in place, complete the following chart and demonstrate that the school has the appropriately qualified distance education administrator or team of administrators designed to effectively oversee the school’s distance education program(s)/course(s) of study and ensure that they meet the objectives and mission of the school to include the Director of Education and the individual(s) qualified to oversee distance education (*Section IX (B)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation)*.

|  |
| --- |
| **DISTANCE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR TEAM** *(Include Director of Education AND Director of Distance Education)* |
| **Staff Name** | **Position** | **Degree/Credential Earned** *(Year)* | **Description of Work- Related Distance Education Experience and/or Training for the Position** | **From** *(m/y)* | **To (***m/y)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**J. Admissions Requirements, Enrollments, and Assessments** (*Section IX (F), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*)

1. Provide the admissions requirements for enrollment into the **proposed distance education** **program(s)/course(s)** of study.
2. Explain how the school will **assess the student’s technical skills, competencies, and access to technology** necessary to succeed in a distance education environment **prior** to their enrollment in the program or course of study (*Section IX (F)(2)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
3. Provide information regarding the assessment tool (e.g., test, preparation/ orientation course, etc.) the school will utilize to assess a student’s capability to benefit from enrolling in a distance education program prior to enrollment (*Section IX (F)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
4. Provide a copy of the assessment tool(s) and an explanation regarding how the school determined the appropriateness of the assessment tool selected by the school (*Section IX (F)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
5. Will the school enroll ability-to-benefit (“ATB”) students into the proposed distance education program(s)/course(s) of study? If so, describe how the school will provide individual counseling and other support services for ATB students.

**K. Externship** (*Section II (A)(7), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditatio*n):

If the proposed distance education program(s) include(s) an externship where the externship or a portion of the externship will be **offered via distance education:**

1. Provide details regarding how the online externship will be delivered to the students through the distance education setting.
2. Describe how the school will oversee the online portions of externship(s) for distance education students to ensure that students will gain the intended learning outcomes and objectives of the externship. Also, provide the written training plan and goals for students that specify the particular application and experiences that are to be secured during the online portions of the externship.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The school must upload this application directly to ACCSC’s College 360 Database. The ACCSC College 360 database can be accessed by [clicking here](https://college360.accsc.org/logon.aspx). Please note that the password utilized by the institution to access the Annual Report Portal is the same to access the School Submission section of the College 360 database. The Instructions for College 360 DMS Submissions can be found [here.](https://www.accsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Instructions-for-Electronic-070115.pdf) A detailed overview on how to upload a school submission can be found [here.](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.accsc.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2023%2F09%2FSchool-Submission-Project-Full-Directions-v3.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

**INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PAYMENT SUBMISSION FORM FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCHOOL #(s)** | **SCHOOL NAME(s)** | **CITY** | **STATE** |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **APPLICATION TYPE(s)** | **NAME OF PROGRAM(s)**(*if applicable*) | **PAYMENT AMOUNT(s)**(*Enter payment amount for each application type*) |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT** | **CHECK NUMBER** |
|  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME OF CONTACT PERSON** | **TITLE** | **PHONE NUMBER** | **EMAIL** |
|  |  |  |  |

**\* Please submit a payment submission form with each check payment.**

**Submit To: Operations Department**

 **Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges**

 **2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302**

 **Arlington, VA 22201**

1. A school applying for distance education approval for the first time must submit the Application for Initial Distance Education Approval. Please submit one application per school. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. If the proposed distance education program(s)/course(s) of study have not been approved to be offered via resident training, submit an appropriate application in accordance with the program approval requirements outlined in *Section IV (E)(6), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The estimated number of hours (clock or credit) awarded per course must conform to generally accepted practice in higher education (e.g. 3 semester credit hours / 4 quarter credit hours) (*Section II (A)(3)(g), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)