

October 30, 2026

Important Update – Final Accreditation Regulations Issued

On October 30, 2026, the United States Department of Education (USDE) published a [final accreditation rule](#) developed through the Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM) negotiated rulemaking process. The final rule will take effect on July 1, 2027. In [announcing the rule](#), the Department stated its belief that these revisions “reform, strengthen, and modernize America’s higher education quality assurance system” and that “[t]he final rule is designed to strengthen quality assurance and improve affordability in higher education by prioritizing student outcomes, reducing regulatory burdens, promoting innovation and intellectual diversity, and increasing competition among accrediting agencies”

Michale McComis, ACCSC Executive Director, served as the Primary Negotiator representing Institutional Accreditors on the AIM Negotiated Rulemaking Committee and served a pivotal role in shaping these revisions and reforms. Dr. McComis stated that “I am most proud of the progress the Committee made in the area of transfer of credit and the positive impact this will make for students and their ability to move more freely in our higher education system.” Dr. McComis went on to say that “these revisions will bring change for accreditors and institutions alike and ACCSC will be working diligently to ensure our ongoing compliance with the federal regulations for recognized accrediting agencies.”

To that end, ACCSC will be developing new rules and standards in the associated areas and institutions should pay close attention as those changes and revisions are communicated through a Call for Comment or an Accreditation Alert as they are released over the course of the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact the ACCSC staff.