



Approved Agencies	
Responsible Official: Accreditation Liaison	Responsible Office: Office of the Provost

Policy Purpose

This policy specifies Approved Agencies, formerly known as regional accrediting organizations, that accredit institutions of higher education in the United States.

Policy Statement

Several ETSU policies reference the requirement that an institution be regionally accredited. On February 26, 2020, the United States Department of Education (USDE) [revised federal regulations](#) relating to the accreditation of institutions of higher education to remove the distinction between [regional](#) and national accrediting agencies. As the USDE no longer uses the term “regional” to refer to an accrediting agency, any ETSU policy referencing the requirement that an institution is regionally accredited shall mean that the institution is accredited by an Approved Agency. This applies to all academic and administrative policies currently in effect or approved at a future date.

Authority: TCA 49-8-203, et. Seq.; Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA): Regional Accrediting Organizations; 84 FR 58834; 34 CFR 602

Previous Policy: N/A

Defined Terms

Approved Agency

The following list of agencies are approved agencies:

- A. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC);
- B. Higher Learning Commission (HLC);
- C. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE);
- D. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE);

- E. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU);
- F. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); and
- G. Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

Policy History

Effective Date

- a. Initial: 11/09/23
- b. Revised:

Procedure

Effective Date

- a. Initial: N/A
- b. Revised:

Related Form(s)

Scope and Applicability

Primary: Academic

Secondary: Governance

