

# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

## Policy Manual

**SUBJECT:** Accreditation

**NUMBER:** 2:36

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### **A. PURPOSE**

To establish accreditation responsibilities for the Board of Regents and Regental Institutions. Accreditors establish and measure stringent criteria on academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and responsible conduct. An institution's accreditation status informs stakeholders of the legitimacy of higher education institutions and programs. The federal government requires that higher education institutions be accredited to be eligible for federal funding and to provide students with federal financial aid.

### **B. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Academic Program:** Undergraduate (associate or bachelor) and graduate/professional (master, specialist, doctorate) degrees approved and offered at each of the Regental institutions.
- 2. Institutional Accreditation:** Holding accreditation from one of the following institutional accrediting bodies, unless otherwise specified: Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).
- 3. Program Accreditation:** Holding accreditation from a specialized accrediting organization for a specific academic program that leads to a profession.

### **C. PRINCIPLES, EXPECTATIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

- 1.** Board of Regents Policy 1:0, 1:1, SDCL § 13-49 through § 13-53, and the South Dakota Constitution, Article XIV, Section 3 provides the authority to govern the university system. To support the institutions in their pursuit of accreditation goals and accreditation review, the Board of Regents will provide reporting and documentation as needed in meeting the requirements of the core components.
- 2.** Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University and University of South Dakota will each, based on its own merits and the quality of its programs, retain individual institutional accreditation.
- 3.** An institution may, with approval from the Board of Regents, seek program accreditation for an academic program ([BOR Policy 1.10](#)).

4. Program accreditation may be necessary when the program prepares students for licensure, where the licensing agency requires applicants graduate from a program with specific program accreditation.
5. Program accreditation is voluntary, though strongly encouraged, when it is appropriate, aligned with the mission of the university, and lends credibility to the program, university, and graduates.

#### **D. ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES AND REPORTING**

1. The Board of Regents and the Executive Director or designee will participate in accreditation visits as directed by the accreditation organization or requested by the institution.
2. The institution will report the status of institutional and programmatic accreditation by August 1 annually to the Board Academic Affairs office. The report should identify the following for institutional and each programmatic accreditation:
  - 2.1. Name of accreditation agency
  - 2.2. For each programmatic accreditation agency, the program CIP codes
  - 2.3. Frequency of accreditation
  - 2.4. Year of last accreditation decision
  - 2.5. Status of accreditation (i.e., initial, continuing, probation)
  - 2.6. Next scheduled accreditation visit
3. The Board Academic Affairs office will compile an Accreditation Status Report to be provided to the Board of Regents at their October meeting.
4. Institutions will provide to the Board of Regents a copy of the accreditation status letter received from its institutional accreditor following a reaccreditation cycle.
5. Institutions will provide to the Board of Regents a copy of any accreditation status letter or notification of accreditation status pertaining to programmatic accreditation with the submission of its comprehensive program review report.

#### **FORMS / APPENDICES:**

None

#### **SOURCE:**

BOR October 2022.