



NACEP Accreditation Commission

Statement on Applying for Extensions from the Higher Learning Commission for Concurrent Enrollment Instructors

The nation's largest institutional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which accredits higher education institutions across a 19 state region, revised faculty qualifications expectations in June 2015, with an effective date of September 1, 2017. These minimum faculty qualifications apply to all faculty teaching for institutions, including both on-campus and concurrent enrollment instructors.

Given the disproportionate impact on concurrent enrollment programs of the new minimum qualifications, HLC will allow institutions to apply for an extension of the timeline by which concurrent enrollment instructors will need to meet the new credentialing standards. The HLC is not offering the same extension to on-campus faculty, meaning that any institution approved for an extension will have lower credentialing standards for concurrent enrollment instructors than for instructors on-campus during the time period of the extension.

Many NACEP-accredited programs are interested in taking advantage of this extension to provide additional time for their concurrent enrollment instructors to obtain discipline-specific graduate coursework or to identify replacement instructors.

NACEP's relevant accreditation standard on this matter - Faculty Standard 1 - establishes an expectation for our accredited programs that concurrent enrollment instructors meet the same credentialing requirements as instructors on campus: "*CEP instructors are approved by the respective college/university academic department and meet the academic department's requirements for teaching the college/university courses.*"

The Commission will consider any program currently accredited by NACEP that receives an extension from HLC to be in compliance with Faculty Standard F1 despite having differing standards for on-campus faculty than for concurrent enrollment instructors:

1. During the HLC-approved time period the institution is approved for; and
2. Only for concurrent enrollment instructors who are enrolled in discipline-specific graduate coursework in order to meet the new credentialing requirements.

Programs seeking initial accreditation from NACEP in 2016 and beyond will need to disclose if they have applied for or received an extension, document the extent to which the extension is needed, and provide faculty credentialing policies from before and after the September 1, 2017 implementation date.

Adopted by the NACEP Accreditation Commission January 13, 2016, revised June 5, 2017