Separately Accreditable Internationally-Owned Institutions Policy

Institutions operating within the recognized geographical region of the Commission that are owned by an international entity outside the region, and that wish to pursue accreditation by WSCUC, need to demonstrate sufficient operational autonomy to be considered separately accreditable from the parent or ownership entity.

Institutions in this category are expected to demonstrate the following indicators of autonomy. The institution:

1. Has sufficient financial and administrative independence from the parent institution to manage its own budget and to provide sufficient financial information pertaining to its own operations for a peer evaluator team to draw informed conclusions about the institution’s sustainability and effectiveness.
2. Has a local board with sufficient delegations of authority from the parent entity to ensure the institution’s ongoing compliance with the Commission’s Standards of Accreditation and policies and to award academic degrees in the name of the institution.
3. Oversees personnel operations and policies related to hiring faculty and staff.
4. Has a full time chief administrative officer with delegated authorities sufficient to ensure effective operations in compliance with the Standards.
5. Is empowered to initiate, sustain, and review its own academic programs.
6. Has degree-granting authority licensed by the appropriate civic body in the state or jurisdiction in which it is located, such as with the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) for California.
7. Meets, or has the potential to meet, the eligibility requirements of WSCUC.

Institutional leadership should discuss these expectations with WSCUC staff as early as possible in the planning process to ensure mutual understanding on the intent of each of them. Evidence for this level of autonomy will be evaluated by a panel of the Eligibility Review Committee at the time of its review of the eligibility application.

Should the institution operating within the WSCUC region obtain accreditation, this should not be construed as providing accreditation for the parent institution or other institutions operated by the institution.

Approved by the Commission, November 2015