
Policy on Pilot Projects

The Commission recognizes the significant changes in society, demographics, technology, and in the expectations by the public for institutions of higher education. As noted in the Preface to the *Standards for Accreditation*, “By design, the Standards as explicated welcome perceptive and imaginative innovation aimed at increasing the effectiveness of higher education.” The Policy on Pilot Projects is designed to support innovation in a way that allows institutions to experiment with efforts that may be or appear to be inconsistent with specific aspects of the standards.

The Commission will consider proposals for Pilot Projects to be carried out for a period of time that ordinarily will not exceed four years, with monitoring established, including a focused evaluation in the semester before the end of the Pilot Project timeline. Based on the results of the focused evaluation, the Commission may: a) determine that the Pilot Project should come to an end, with a responsible teach-out of students, if relevant; or b) approve continuation of the Pilot Project, as implemented or with modifications based on the institution’s request and the results of the focused evaluation; and c) determine future monitoring.

Proposals should summarize the proposed Pilot Project, indicate where the Project will be inconsistent with the Commission’s standards, and indicate how it is consistent with the remainder of the Commission’s *Standards for Accreditation*.

In addition, the proposal for the Pilot Project should demonstrate that it:

1. is under the administrative and fiduciary control of the institution;
2. is consistent with federal regulations;
3. is consistent with the institution’s mission;
4. is within the capacity of the institution to carry out;
5. will be consistent with the Commission’s standard on *Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure*;
6. will be evaluated by the institution, including through an external perspective;
7. will not place students at undue risk.

The Commission’s cover sheet signed by the CEO should be included.

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