

## Policy on ~~Pilot Projects~~Innovation

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~~Innovation is designed to support innovation in a way that allows institutions to ~~experiment with efforts~~undertake initiatives that may be or appear to be inconsistent with specific aspects of the standards.

~~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, Institutions seeking approval for an initiative under this Policy should submit a the proposal for the Pilot Project should that describes the initiative and demonstrates that it:~~

1. where the initiative is inconsistent with the Commission’s standards;
2. how the initiative is consistent with federal regulations and the remainder of the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation, including the standard on Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure;
3. how the initiative is consistent with the institution’s mission and fulfills a demonstrated need; ~~is under the administrative and fiduciary control of the institution;~~
4. how the institution will exercise administrative and fiduciary control of the initiative;
5. that the institution has the financial, human, information, and technological resources necessary to implement the initiative;
6. that students will not be harmed and will receive equivalent benefit from the initiative;
7. what measures and metrics the institution will use to evaluate the initiative, including the use of an external perspective;

The proposal should include the Commission’s cover page, signed by the CEO, that indicates the date of board approval of the initiative and confirms the institution has secured any required state approvals.

- ~~is consistent with federal regulations;~~
- ~~is consistent with the institution's mission;~~
- ~~is within the capacity of the institution to carry out;~~
- ~~will be consistent with the Commission's standard on *Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure*;~~
- ~~will be evaluated by the institution, including through an external perspective;~~
- ~~will not place students at undue risk.~~

~~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.~~

~~Initiatives approved under this Policy will be monitored by the Commission to assess the institution's experience in implementing the initiative and evaluate the institution's capacity to continue the initiative at an acceptable level of quality. Such monitoring will include an on-site evaluation, following the format of a substantive change evaluation visit, that will ordinarily be scheduled within two years of the start of the initiative.~~

~~Based on the results of the focused-on-site evaluation, the Commission may: a) determine that the Pilot Project initiative should come to an end, with a responsible teach-out of students, if relevant; or b) approve continuation of the Pilot Project initiative, as implemented or with modifications based on the institution's request and/or the results of the focused-on-site evaluation. If the initiative is approved to continue, the Commission will; 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. 1. is consistent with federal regulations;~~
- ~~3. 1. is consistent with the institution's mission;~~
- ~~4. 1. is within the capacity of the institution to carry out;~~
- ~~5. 1. will be consistent with the Commission's standard on *Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure*;~~
- ~~6. 1. will be evaluated by the institution, including through an external perspective;~~

~~7.1 will not place students at undue risk.~~

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

*March 2020*

*June 2022*