



New England Commission of Higher Education
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel: 781-425-7785 | neche.org

Code of Good Practice in Non-Credit Recognition

The New England Commission of Higher Education follows these guidelines:

- A. arranges evaluations or other visits in consultation with non-credit liaisons;
- B. recognizes the right of an organization to be appraised in the light of its own stated purposes so long as those purposes demonstrably fall within and adequately reflect, the expectations of providers defined by NECHE's Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework;
- C. states criteria for recognition in terms that are manifestly relevant to the quality of an organization, respecting organizational autonomy in other matters;
- D. uses relevant qualitative and quantitative information in its evaluation process;
- E. assists and stimulates improvement of the educational effectiveness of a non-credit provider;
- F. encourages sound educational experimentation and permits innovations;
- G. designs the evaluation process and requests for information not only to obtain information for visiting teams and the Commission but also to stimulate an organization to evaluate and improve itself;
- H. conducts evaluation visits by competent and knowledgeable reviewers, qualified by education or experience, under conditions that assure impartial, valid, and objective judgment;
- I. appoints team members in consultation with an organization, while retaining the final authority in the formation of evaluation teams and other visitors.
- J. provides for ample consultation during the visit between the evaluation team and the faculty and staff of an organization, including the president, his or her designated non-credit representatives;



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- K. provides opportunity for interviewing students during evaluation visits;
- L. provides the non-credit liaison of the organization being evaluated an opportunity to read a draft of the report prepared by the visiting team, and to comment on its accuracy before it is sent to the Commission;
- M. regards the text of the evaluation report as confidential between an organization and the recognizing agency; the organization is encouraged to make the report widely available and is permitted to otherwise make the entire report public;
- N. considers decisions relative to recognition only after the organization has submitted a formal response to the evaluation report,
- O. refrains from conditioning recognition upon payment of fees for purposes other than membership dues or actual evaluation costs;
- P. notifies an organization as quickly as possible regarding any recognition decision;
- Q. withdraws recognition only after advance notice has been given to the president of an organization that such action is contemplated, and the reasons therefore, sufficient to permit timely rejoinder and to pursue established procedures for review and appeal;
- R. permits the withdrawal of a request for recognition at any time (even after evaluation) prior to final action;

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