



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

Public Disclosure of Information About Recognized Organizations

The following policy governs the release of information regarding the status of affiliated higher education institutions and organizations recognized by the Commission.

1. Release of Information by Organizations Regarding Their Recognition Following Commission Action

At the conclusion of the evaluation process organizations are encouraged to make publicly available information about their recognition status including the findings of team reports and any obligations or requirements established by Commission action, as well as any plans to address stated concerns. Because of the potential to be misleading, organizations are asked not to publish or otherwise disseminate excerpts from these materials.

While the Commission does not ordinarily release copies of organization reports, evaluation reports, or other documents related to the recognition of individual organizations, it believes it to be good practice for organizations to make these materials available, in their entirety, after notification of Commission action.

If an organization releases or otherwise disseminates information which misrepresents or distorts its recognition status, the organization will be notified and asked to take corrective action publicly correcting any misleading information it may have disseminated, including but not limited to the recognition status of the organization, the contents of evaluation reports, and the Commission actions with respect to the organization. Should it fail to do so in an immediate and timely way, the Commission, acting through its President, will release a public statement in such form and content as it deems desirable providing correct information. This may include release of notification letters sent by the Commission to the organization, and/or a press release.

2. Published Statement on Recognition Status

The Commission asks that one of the following statements be used for disclosing on its website and in catalogues, brochures, advertisements, etc., that the organization is recognized.

An organization may wish to include within its website, catalogue or other material a statement which will give the consuming public a better idea of the meaning of recognition. When that is the case, the Commission requests that the following statement be used in its entirety:

_____ College (University)/Organization is recognized by the New England Commission of Higher Education as a provider of high-quality non-credit programming.

Recognition is distinct and separate from accreditation, which applies to the credit-bearing courses and programs at a higher education institution.

Recognition by the Commission indicates that the organization provides high-quality non-credit programming as articulated in the NECHE Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework. NECHE recognition applies to the entirety of an organization's non-credit programming as defined in the Quality Assurance Framework. Recognition (a) is not a guarantee of every non-credit course or program offered, or of the competency of students who have completed a program; (b) provides reasonable assurance about the quality of non-credit programming available to students; (c) does not replace or supersede any licensure or other approvals that may be required for certain non-credit programs (i.e. allied health programs); and (d) does not provide an organization access to Title IV funding for its non-credit courses and programs.

Inquiries regarding this recognition status by the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the organization. Individuals may also contact:

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Wakefield, MA 01880 (781) 425 7785
E-Mail: necherecognition@neche.org

The shorter statement that an organization may choose for announcing its recognition status follows:

_____ College (University) / Organization is recognized by the New England Commission of Higher Education.

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Recognition by the New England Commission of Higher Education has reference to the organization as a whole. Therefore, statements like “fully recognized” or “this course is recognized by the Commission” or “this program is recognized by the Commission” are incorrect and should not be used.

3. Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Organizations by the Commission

The Commission publishes the following information about member and candidate organizations on its website:

- Name of the organization
- The date of initial recognition and/or when candidacy was granted
- Recognition status (member or candidate)
- Address
- Dates of initial recognition (or candidacy), last review and next review
- Locations of instructional sites

The Commission recognizes that, to be fully understood, information about the recognized status of organizations must be placed within the context of the policies and procedures of the New England Commission of Higher Education. In responding to inquiries, the Commission will endeavor to do so.

The Commission may also post on its website a public statement about an action taken regarding a recognized organization when further information about the action and the Commission’s reasons for taking the action would be helpful to members of the public.

4. Public Disclosure of Institutional Actions

Within approximately 30 days after the action on recognition status is taken, the Commission will make public on its website the basis for these decisions. Such actions include:

Grant recognition

Continue an organization in recognition

Deny or withdraw the recognition of an organization

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