



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

Range and Meaning of Commission Recognition Actions

Actions taken by the New England Commission of Higher Education relative to the recognition of non-credit providers are based on the application of the Commission's Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework in its recognition evaluation process.

The process by which the Quality Assurance Framework is applied typically begins with the provider's preparation of a report that demonstrates it meets each of the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming and Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming outlined in the Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework. The provider is then evaluated by a team of peers that reports its findings to the Non-Credit Recognition Committee, which in turn makes recommendations to the Commission. Action is taken by the Commission upon consideration of the provider and evaluation team reports along with the Non-Credit Recognition Committee recommendation.

In extraordinary circumstances, the Commission may take an action affecting recognition apart from its usual evaluative processes. In such situations, procedural fairness is maintained.

Range and Meaning of Actions

Organizations Seeking Candidacy Status

Candidacy Status: A non-credit provider will be granted candidacy status upon review by Commission staff who will determine if the non-credit provider has the capacity to meet the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming and the Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming. The determination will be based on information submitted through the NECHE Non-Credit Recognition Application. Candidacy is not recognition, or does it assure eventual recognition. Once granted candidacy, a provider may remain in that status no longer than one year.

Deferment of Candidacy – A provider's application for candidacy will be deferred when Commission staff determine that either a) it has insufficient information upon which to base a decision; or b) the provider is making process towards meeting each of the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming and the Markers of Organizational



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Commitment to Non-Credit Programming but needs additional time. In such cases, the deferment will last no longer than two years.

Denial of Candidacy Status – A provider’s application for candidacy will be denied when Commission staff determine that the provider does not currently meet nor does it have the capacity to meet the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming and the Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming, as described in NECHE’s Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework.

Providers Seeking Initial Recognition

Initial Recognition – The Commission decides that a non-credit provider seeking recognition should be granted that status when it is found that the provider meets Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming or the Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming outlined in NECHE’s Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework.

Deferment of Initial Recognition – Action on a provider’s application for recognition will be deferred when the Commission judges that it has insufficient data on which to base a decision.

In cases of deferral, action is tabled until a specified time, normally the next Commission meeting where recognition decisions are on the agenda. The provider may be required to submit a report and/or host a visit from Commission representatives.

Denial of Initial Recognition – When the Commission finds that a non-credit provider seeking initial recognition does not meet the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming or the Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming outlined in NECHE’s Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework, and the deficiencies are such as not to be capable of being rapidly remedied, the Commission will deny initial recognition.

Providers Seeking Continued Recognition

Continued Recognition – A non-credit provider is continued in recognition by the Commission when it is found that the provider continues to meet the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming or the Markers of Organizational Commitment to



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Non-Credit Programming outlined in NECHE’s Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework.

Deferment of Recognition - Action on continuing a provider’s recognition will be deferred when the Commission judges that it has insufficient data on which to base a decision.

In cases of deferral, action is tabled until a specified time, normally the next Commission meeting where recognition decisions are on the agenda. The provider may be required to submit a report and/or host a visit from Commission representatives.

Withdrawal of Recognition – The Commission will withdraw the recognition of a non-credit provider if it is found that it does not to meet one or more of the Markers of High-Quality Non-Credit Programming or the Markers of Organizational Commitment to Non-Credit Programming outlined in NECHE’s Non-Credit Quality Assurance Framework and the Commission determines that it does not have the ability to come into compliance with the Framework.

Review of Non-Credit Provider Recognition

All recognized non-credit providers must undergo an evaluation which includes a provider report and a peer evaluation visit, at least once every five years.

Between evaluations, the Commission may require a progress report at or around the midpoint of the recognition cycle.

Each recognized provider is also required to submit an Annual Data Collection Report.

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