



Mission Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education

The New England Commission of Higher Education is a voluntary not-for-profit corporation whose members are accredited institutions. The geographical scope of the Commission's activities includes New England and certain overseas locations.

The New England Commission of Higher Education has the following mission:

The Commission exercises the dual roles of quality assurance and encouraging continuous improvement for degree-granting institutions of higher education. The Commission assures the education community and the public that accredited institutions have clearly defined objectives consistent with *Standards for Accreditation* established by the Commission; that they have the organization, staffing and resources to accomplish and sustain these objectives. In addition, through its process of accreditation, the Commission promotes the improvement and effectiveness of its affiliated educational institutions.

The Commission has also adopted the following Vision Statement:

Accreditation by NECHE is widely recognized as an effective and efficient system of peer review, assuring the quality of education, supporting innovation, and providing value to institutions and to the public.

The Commission limits its activities to those institutions awarding the bachelor's, master's or doctor's degrees and those institutions awarding the associate's degree which include in their offerings at least one program in liberal studies or another area of study widely available at the baccalaureate level of colleges and universities accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

In the fulfillment and furtherance of its mission, the Commission undertakes various activities including the following:

1. establishes and maintains an evaluative process to assess the capacity of affiliated institutions to accomplish their goals by emphasizing institutional self-and peer evaluation through the application of the Commission's criteria and standards;
2. apart from the evaluative process, maintains a relationship with affiliated institutions to monitor their adherence to the criteria and standards of the Commission and to identify ways the Commission can further assist in the advancement of institutional effectiveness;

3. advances institutional self-regulation by requiring or encouraging ethical and otherwise good practices in the accomplishment of educational and related activities;
4. assists institutions in understanding the criteria and *Standards for Accreditation*;
5. upon appropriate inquiry, discloses accurate and appropriate information about affiliated institutions and through the Commission regularly disseminates public notice regarding the current status of all affiliated institutions;
6. cooperates with governmental agencies and other accrediting associations connected with affiliated institutions on matters of mutual concern;
7. seeks to establish and maintain relationships with other groups interested in and involved with accreditation and the improvement of educational effectiveness;
8. encourages and participates in efforts directed toward the study of current issues related to the evaluation and improvement of educational institutions;
9. conducts the evaluation of its own activities, including its criteria and standards, to assure itself and others relying on its efforts that the Commission fulfills its purposes to the greatest extent possible.

September, 1982

November, 2003

January, 2019

Editorial Revision March 2026