Institutional Accreditation
Conditions of Eligibility

To be considered for institutional accreditation, an institution must fulfill the requirements stated in the Policy and Procedures for Institutional Accreditation and satisfy the following Conditions of Eligibility:

1. **Tenets of Faith.** The institution’s board of control affirms agreement with and commitment to the ABHE Tenets of Faith, as evidenced by a copy of the Tenets of Faith signed annually by the chief executive officer of the institution.

2. **Nonprofit Status.** Evidence that the institution is a nonprofit organization or the nonprofit subsidiary of a parent organization.

3. **Authorization.** An institution must document authorization from the appropriate governmental agency (if required) to operate as an educational institution and to grant all degrees, certificates, and diplomas that it awards.

4. **Institutional mission.** An institution must have a clear statement of mission as well as formally adopted and widely publicized institutional goals that are in accord with the Association’s definition of biblical higher education.

5. **Governance.** An institution must have an external governing board of at least five members that has the authority to oversee the accomplishment of the mission, goals, and objectives of the institution.

6. **Chief executive officer.** An institution must have a chief executive officer who has the capacity and authority to lead the institution toward the accomplishment of its mission.

7. **Catalog.** An institution must have available to students and the public a current and accurate catalog setting forth the institution’s governance, mission, institutional goals, specific objectives, academic program requirements and courses, learning and educational resources, admissions policies and standards, nondiscrimination statement, rules and regulations for conduct, full- and part-time faculty rosters with faculty degrees, fees and other charges, refund policies, a policy defining satisfactory academic progress, and other items related to attending, transferring to, or withdrawing from the institution. Claims regarding educational effectiveness must be supported by appropriate data.

8. **Assessment and public accountability.** An institution must make information available to the public concerning student achievement and institutional performance outcomes, including graduation rates and rate of recent graduate employment in program related occupations.
9. **Learning resources.** An institution must ensure access to library and learning resources necessary to support courses, programs, and degrees offered.

10. **Faculty qualifications.** An institution must have qualified academic leadership and at least one qualified faculty member for each major or program offered. The oversight of the program may be by the same individual as the faculty member.

11. **Academic programs.** An institution must offer one or more educational programs that are at least two academic years in length and are consistent with the mission of the institution and appropriate to higher education.

12. **Biblical/theological studies.** An institution must meet, in all its programs, the minimum requirement for biblical/theological studies as specified in the Standards for Accreditation.

13. **General studies.** An institution must meet, in all its programs, the minimum requirement for general studies as specified in the Standards for Accreditation.

14. **Ministry formation program.** An institution must require that undergraduate students participate in a program of ministry formation.

15. **Student body.** An institution must have sustained and viable student enrollment in its education programs over the past two years (typically an FTE of 10 or headcount of 30 students or more).

16. **Program completion.** An institution must have graduated at least one student in its principal program by the time of the committee’s decision regarding applicant status.

17. **Admissions policy.** An institution must have an admissions policy that is compatible with its stated institutional mission and programs offered.

18. **Institutional stability and capacity.** An institution must demonstrate a pattern of stability in enrollment, governing board, administration, faculty, and finances. For new applicants, the institution must demonstrate the capacity for development into an accredited institution within ten years.

19. **Financial base.** An institution must have a financial base indicating that the institution can achieve its mission and goals within a balanced budget and at a safe level of debt.

20. **Income allocation.** An institution must devote a substantial and sufficient portion of its generated income to the support of its educational purposes and programs.

21. **Annual audit.** An institution must have financial records that receive an annual, independent, opinioned audit.
22. **Agency disclosure.** An institution must agree to disclose to the association any and all such information as it may require to carry out its evaluation and accreditation functions.

23. **Compliance.** An institution must commit itself to comply with the Association’s Standards for Accreditation, either current or as hereafter modified, during the period of its affiliation.

24. **Public disclosure.** An institution must attest in writing that it understands and agrees that the Association may, at its discretion, make known to any agency or member of the public the nature of any action, positive or negative, regarding the institution’s status with the Association.

25. **Arbitration.** An institution must agree in writing to submit any dispute involving the final denial, withdrawal, or termination of accreditation to initial arbitration prior to any other legal action.

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