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. Accredited institutions must satisfy Conditions of Eligibility at reaffirmation.

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

2. **Nonprofit Status.** The institution must document that it is a nonprofit organization or the nonprofit subsidiary of a parent organization.

3. **Authorization.** The institution must document authorization by all relevant governmental agencies to operate as an educational institution and to grant all degrees, certificates, and diplomas that it awards.

4. **Institutional mission.** The institution must have a clear statement of mission in accord with the Association's definition of biblical higher education.

5. **Governance.** The institution must have an external governing board of at least five members with authority to oversee accomplishment of the institution's mission.

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

7. **Catalog.** The institution must make available to students and the public a current and accurate catalog that includes the following information: institutional mission, board roster, admissions standards and policies, a nondiscrimination statement, academic program requirements, course offerings with course descriptions, faculty roster with faculty degrees, a description of learning and educational resources, notification of rules for student conduct, fees and other charges, refund policies, a policy defining satisfactory academic progress, and other items related to attendance, transfer, or withdrawal from the institution.

8. **Student achievement and public accountability.** The institution must make graduation and retention rates available to the public. In addition, any claims regarding educational effectiveness must be supported by appropriate data.

9. **Learning resources.** The institution must ensure access to library and learning resources necessary to support courses, programs, and degrees in all instructional modalities and languages of instruction.

10. **Technology.** The institution must ensure access to reliable and secure technology applications necessary to support its mission.

11. **Faculty qualifications.** The institution must have qualified academic leadership and at least one qualified faculty member for each major or program offered. Oversight of a program may be provided by the qualified faculty member.

12. **Academic programs.** The institution must offer a minimum of one educational program equivalent to a minimum of 48 semester hours for an undergraduate program or 36 semester hours for a graduate program that is consistent with the mission of the institution and appropriate to higher education.

13. **Biblical/theological studies.** The institution's academic programs must meet the minimum requirement for biblical/theological studies as specified in the Institutional Accreditation Standards.

14. **General studies.** The institution's academic programs must meet the minimum requirement for general studies as specified in the Institutional Accreditation Standards.

15. **Ministry formation.** The institution must require all students to participate in academic or co-curricular preparation to be effective witnesses, servants, and workers in the church and the world.

16. **Student body.** The institution must demonstrate sustained and viable student enrollment in its education programs for the past two years (typically a full-time equivalent/FTE of 10, or headcount of 30).

17. **Program completion.** The institution must have at least one graduate from a program that is equivalent to a minimum of 48 semester hours for an undergraduate program or 36 semester hours for a graduate program.

18. **Admissions policies.** The institution must have admissions policies compatible with its stated institutional mission and programs offered.

19. **Institutional stability and capacity.** The institution must demonstrate patterns of stability in enrollment, finances, and on its governing board, administration, and faculty.

20. **Financial base.** The institution must have a financial base sufficient to achieve its mission within a balanced budget and at a safe level of debt.

21. **Income allocation.** The institution must devote a substantial and sufficient portion of its generated income to supporting its educational purposes and programs.

22. **Annual audit.** The institution's financial records must receive an annual, independent, opinioned audit by an accounting professional.

23. **Agency disclosure.** The institution must agree to disclose any and all such information as the Commission may require to carry out its evaluation and accreditation functions.

24. **Compliance.** The institution must commit itself to comply with the Commission's Institutional Accreditation Standards, either current or as hereafter modified, during the period of its affiliation.

25. **Public disclosure.** The institution must attest in writing that it understands and agrees that the Commission 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 accreditation status.

26. **Arbitration.** The 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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