



Institutional Accreditation Standard

1: Integrity and Mission

MAN-STD-INST-001

Adoption Date: February 2024

Applicable Policies: *Considerations When Closing a Higher Education Institution, Conferral of Honorary Doctoral Degrees, Policy on Academic Quality as Related to Institutional Mission, Policy on Ethical Practices, Policy on Falsification of Data, Policy on Institutional Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*

Initial call for comment on current language in Standard 1, with the exception of EEs 5-7, which received public comment in April 2026. The ABHE Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviews one or more Standards for Accreditation annually. This process involves an initial call for public comment on the standards, consideration of comments received in proposing changes, a subsequent call for public comment on proposed changes, consideration of comments in revisions, and submission of proposed changes to the COA Delegate Assembly for discussion and vote.

The institution operates with integrity and has an institutional mission appropriate to biblical higher education.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Relative to this standard, an accredited institution is characterized by . . .

1. Integrity in all operations, including financial management, admissions, academic programs, student services, media, and institutional governance.
2. Fulfillment of applicable Commission policies and requirements as demonstrated by honest, complete, and timely communication with the Commission regarding compliance with all oversight agencies.
3. Written policies and documented processes (including grievance procedures with consistent record-keeping) that govern various relationships within the institution (including those with students, faculty, staff, and board members) to ensure equitable and consistent treatment and avoid inherent conflicts of interest.
4. Published policies and procedures that address protection of student privacy, transparency in safety and on-campus crime, and provision for redress of harassment (including sexual harassment) that might be experienced by institutional stakeholders (including students, staff, faculty, administration, and board members).
5. Institutional values and practices that foster respect for varied backgrounds and perspectives consistent with the institution's mission.
6. A board, faculty, and staff appropriate to the institution's constituency and the students it serves, and consistent with institutional theological distinctives.
7. Institutional values and practices that foster an educational community characterized by mutual respect, hospitality, and service f
8. A clearly written mission statement appropriate to biblical higher education, developed and periodically reviewed by broad representation from all sectors of the institution, and ratified by the governing board.
9. A mission statement easily located on the institution's website and in its catalog(s).

10. A mission statement that guides faculty, staff, administration, and the governing board in operations, planning, resource allocation, and program development.

Proposed in April 2026 Call for Comment



Programmatic Accreditation
Standard 1: Integrity and Mission
MAN-STD-PROG-001

Adoption Date: February 2024

Applicable Policies: *Policy on Academic Quality as Related to Institutional Mission, Policy on Ethical Practices, Policy on Falsification of Data, Policy on Institutional Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*

The program operates with integrity, supports fulfillment of the institution's mission, and is appropriate to biblical higher education.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Relative to this standard, an accredited program is characterized by . . .

1. Integrity in all program operations, including financial management.
2. Fulfillment of applicable Commission policies and requirements, as demonstrated by honest, complete, and timely communication with all oversight agencies.
3. Written policies and documented processes that ensure equitable and consistent treatment of students and employees.
4. Program values and practices that foster respect for varied backgrounds and perspectives consistent with the institution's mission and contribute to an educational community characterized by mutual respect, hospitality, and service.
5. Intended program outcomes that support fulfillment of the institution's mission and lead to student development in biblical/theological- and/or ministry-related studies.

Proposed in April 2026 Call for Comment