

Glossary of Terms

MAN-GLOSS

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Academic Advising

An interactive process in which a faculty member or trained advisor assists students to set and achieve academic goals, acquire information and services, and make responsible decisions consistent with interests, goals, abilities, and degree requirements.

Academic Calendar

The structured schedule of instructional terms.

Academic Discipline

A field of study or scholarly instruction.

Academic Freedom

The intellectual construct that gives members of the academic community the right to question assumptions, explore ideas, and advance knowledge within the context of the institution's mission and doctrinal position.

Academic Program

A cohesive plan of study designed to achieve specific educational outcomes that leads to a certificate, degree, or diploma.

Accelerated Program

An educational format designed to reduce the time needed to complete an academic program and achieved through condensed scheduling, increased course loads, credit by examination, and/or other strategies.

Accreditation

Recognition that an educational institution is voluntarily maintaining the standards of a non-governmental accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Additional Location

A physical facility that is geographically separate from the main campus of the institution and within the same ownership structure of the institution, at which the institution offers at least 50% of a degree certificate, or diploma. An additional location participates in the title IV, HEA programs only through the certification of the main campus. A Federal, State, or local penitentiary, prison, jail, reformatory, work farm, juvenile justice facility, or other similar correctional institution is considered an additional location even if a student receives instruction primarily through distance education or correspondence courses at that location.

Administration

A group of executive officers, such as president, provost, vice president, dean, financial officer, or development officer, with major responsibility for the direction and operation of the institution.

Advanced Standing

The awarding of credit for related prior study or work experience in lieu of required coursework.

Adverse Action

The denial, withdrawal, suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation (candidate status).

Articulation Agreement

A written agreement between institutions that outlines the transfer of course credit from one institution to another and supports a seamless transfer experience for students.

Assessment

An on-going effort to determine the institution or program's effectiveness in achieving its missions and intended outcomes. *Institution-level assessment* includes, but is not limited to, collection, analysis, and reporting of graduation rates, retention rates, placement rates for professional programs, and licensure pass rates, as applicable. *Program-level assessment* includes, but is not limited to, assessment of the effectiveness of academic programs in supporting student achievement of intended learning outcomes. *Operational unit or support service-level assessment* includes, but may not be limited to, assessment of the effectiveness of operational units and/or services in achieving intended outcomes and supporting achievement of institutional mission.

Assessment Plan

A written description of an institution's or program's ongoing assessment activities. The plan should identify assessment instruments or measures employed, achievement targets established, an assessment activities calendar demonstrating planned cycles of assessment, how and when data analysis occurs, and where assessment data findings are reported. Consistent and ongoing implementation of the assessment plan will result in regular reporting of outcomes data for the purpose of demonstrating student achievement of intended outcomes and continuous improvement of programs and services. The assessment plan is a living document, updated regularly as needed to reflect institutional change.

At-Risk Students

Students pursuing higher education who have been under-served by educational or social systems.

Audit

See *Financial Audit*

Authorization

Documents that validate an institution's legal right to operate within a given state or province.

Autonomy

An institution's freedom to be self-governing.

Bible College

See "Biblical Higher Education."

Bible Engagement

A process that connects individuals with the Bible and, thus, fosters the significant and positive influence of God's Word in all areas of life.

Bible-Theology Core

A cohesive program of study that incorporates significant, direct engagement with the biblical text.

Biblical Higher Education

Higher education grounded in the Bible as the foundation for institutional identity, curriculum, operations, and community life. A biblical higher education institution requires of all students a substantial core of biblical studies, general studies and ministry formation experiences for all students, and integrates a biblical worldview with life and learning. An institution of biblical higher education offers curricula that fulfill its overriding purpose to equip all students for effective witness and intentionally integrates biblical truth with all areas of learning and formation, cultivating spiritual maturity, Christlike character, and vocational preparation that equips all students for faithful witness and missional service in and for the Church and the world.

Biblical Integration

The understanding and application of biblical and theological truth in academic study in all disciplines, and in life.

Biblical Worldview

A comprehensive conception of life, culture, and the world from a biblical perspective.

Branch Campus

An physical facility that is geographically separate from the main campus of the institution and within the same ownership structure of the institution; and is independent from the main campus, meaning the location (1) is permanent in nature; (2) offers courses in educational

programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; (3) has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and (4) has its own budgetary and hiring authority. Branch campuses must be certified by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in title IV, HEA programs.

Bylaws

Bylaws are a set of rules adopted by an institution to supplement its constitution and regulate its affairs. Bylaws establish process guidance for the effective governance of an institution and its operations.

Capacity

An individual's knowledge, skills, abilities, motivation, and availability to accomplish a particular role or set of responsibilities.

Catalog (Academic Catalog)

A published document (electronic and/or paper) that delineates the institution's institutional mission, board roster, admissions standards and policies, nondiscrimination statement, academic program requirements, course offerings with course descriptions, faculty rosters 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. The catalog is a static document governing requirements and policies for a designated period of time (typically one or two academic years), and therefore, should not be updated at will. An electronic copy of the catalog is to be submitted to the ABHE Commission office annually.

Certification

The process of receiving approval in a specific area by demonstrating that requirements usually stipulated by a governmental body or professional agency have been met.

Co-Curricular

Required student activities and or/programs outside of classroom (e.g. chapel, spiritual formation groups, ministry formation activities) that complement the student's educational program.

Commission on Accreditation (COA)

The decision-making body with final responsibility for accreditation actions, including the evaluation of the degree to which institutions meet the Commission's Standards and the subsequent granting of accreditation status. Commission membership includes institutional members elected by the ABHE Delegate Assembly and public members appointed by the COA Nominating Committee.

Community of Belonging

~~An institutional ethos in which student, faculty, and staff are known, supported, and valued regardless of differences in demographic characteristics, background and experiences, or perspectives.~~

Competency

A clearly defined, measurable outcome demonstrating achievement of, or proficiency in, a specified unit of knowledge, skill, or character to the standard of performance required in a particular setting (workplace, ministry). Demonstrated achievement of the learning outcome also includes the ability to apply the acquired competency to different settings.

Competency-Based Education

An outcomes-based system of instruction in which student demonstrate proficiency in the integrated mastery of knowledge, skills, and character (spiritual maturity) to the standards of performance required in a particular setting (workplace, ministry). Demonstrated proficiency is the is the basis for measuring satisfaction of course, program, or degree requirements. CBE focuses on the achievement of intended outcomes as the direct measure of student learning, rather than time spent in class, study, or research (an indirect measure of student learning).

Completion/Graduation Rate

The percentage of full-time, degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate students who attended college for the first time 6 years ago in the fall semester and who graduated from their program with 150% of the published time required for a full-time student to complete all requirements for graduation.

Conditions of Eligibility

Foundational requirements that must be substantially satisfied by an institution before applicant status is granted. An institution must maintain compliance with the Conditions of Eligibility to remain an applicant, candidate, or accredited institution.

Conflict of Interest Policy

A board-approved policy designed to identify and mitigate situations in which a board member or employee's personal interests (i.e., family relationships, friendships, financial, or social factors) might compromise his or her judgment, decisions, or actions regarding the institution.

Constituency

Individuals or groups that have a relationship with an institution and who have a stake in its mission. Internal constituents hold formal roles within the institution (e.g. students, faculty, staff, administration, trustees). External constituents do not hold any formal role within the institution (e.g., alumni, donors, employers of alumni, churches).

Constitution, Charter or Articles of Incorporation

The primary enabling document, that defines the purpose, sources of control, doctrinal position, and core values of an institution. It typically focuses on defining the institution and its members and has a rigorous amendment process. A constitution establishes an organization through self-declaration, where a charter establishes an organization through sovereign or government declaration.

Contact Hour

A unit of measure representing an hour of direct instruction. For each hour of in-class instruction, two hours of out-of-class academic work is typically expected.

Correspondence Education

Education provided through one or more courses by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor. The interaction between the instructor and student is limited, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student. Correspondence courses are typically self-paced. Correspondence education is not distance education. **Note:** Correspondence education is not within ABHE's scope of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education.

Credential

All degrees and credit-bearing certificates, diplomas, or other recognized educational credentials awarded by an institution. Required credits may vary by state or province. Credentials must be approved by the COA in accordance with the *Policy on Substantive Change and Required Notifications*.

Credit Hour

A unit of measure representing the traditional academic value of learning activities. A semester credit hour represents 37.5 hours or more of academic engagement in instructor-designated learning activities for the average student (traditionally, a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction per week over a 15-week period, supplemented by two hours of preparation for each hour of instruction). A quarter credit hour represents 25 hours or more of academic engagement in instructor-designated learning activities for the average student (traditionally, a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction per week over a 10-week period, supplemented by two hours of preparation for each hour of instruction). A quarter credit hour is equivalent to 2/3 of a semester credit hour. The assignment of credit hours may be based on intended learning outcomes, verified through student achievement, that the institution determines are reasonably equivalent to a credit hour of student work.

Curriculum

The intended learning outcomes, content and learning experiences, instructional methods, and assessments for a given academic program of study

Degree Completion Program

A program of study offered by a baccalaureate, degree-granting institution, designed to assist students who have already completed an associate degree or a similar number of college credits to finish a baccalaureate degree. Such programs are often designed to meet the needs of working adults.

Disaggregated Data

The presentation of data broken into smaller units in order to reveal underlying trends and patterns (e.g., completion data reported by ~~race/ethnicity or sex~~instructional modality).

Distance Education

An instructional modality characterized by the instructor and students being separated by space and/or time. Most course activity is accomplished via technologically mediated educational strategies, including but not limited to, video conferencing, audio conferencing and learning management systems. Distance education courses include substantive and regular faculty-student interaction. Examples of distance education include remote instruction, synchronous and asynchronous online education, and HyFlex models.

Diversity

~~The degree to which an institution, consistent with its theological commitments, reflects difference within its constituency in alignment with its admission, hiring, and nominating policies.~~

Employee Welfare

Care that an institution demonstrates for its employees, particularly with regard to salaries, benefits, and professional development.

Enabling Documents

A written Constitution, Charter or Articles of Incorporation accompanied by Bylaws.

Enrollment Management

An institutional process that monitors the factors that are influencing recruitment, admissions, retention and attrition.

Extension Site

A physical facility that is geographically separate from the main campus of the institution where students and faculty regularly meet in classes but where students may not complete 50% or more of course work toward requirements for one or more of the institution's degrees, certificates, or diplomas via face-to-face or hybrid courses.

Extracurricular

Voluntary, non-credit activities or programs outside the scope of the required curriculum (e.g., intercollegiate sports, clubs, campus organizations).

Faculty Status

Institutional designation for individuals engaged in instruction, curriculum development, learning resource management and development, academic leadership, and other academic activities as designated by institutional policies.

Field Education

An contextual learning experience that combines experience and reflection in a setting that relates to the student's professional goals. May result in academic credit.

Financial Aid

Grants, loans, assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, tuition waivers, tuition discounts, veteran's benefits, employer assistance and other monies provided to students to meet expenses.

Financial Audit

Review of an institution's financial records by a certified firm that includes an opinion statement. Audits submitted to the COA must include the management letter, if provided by the auditor, and be conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or Canadian generally accepted auditing standards as a full financial audit (not a review or compilation). See also *Management Letter*.

First-time Student

A student attending any post-secondary institution for the first time. This includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended a post- secondary institution for the first time in the prior summer term and students who entered with advanced standing from high school.

Full-time Student

An undergraduate student who is enrolled for at least 12 semester credit hours, or a graduate student who is enrolled for the number of credit hours specified by the institution for full-time study. For ABHE reporting purposes, Full Time Equivalency (FTE) is computed as 12 undergraduate credit hours and 9 graduate credit hours.

GED

A General Education Development (GED) certification equivalent to a high school diploma and earned through examinations.

General Education Core

A cohesive program of study that explores the presuppositions that form the basis for worldview, fosters awareness of culture and supports acquisition of the general knowledge and skills foundational to study in the academic major and lifelong learning.

Goal

An aim or desired result. A goal is general in nature and typically not measurable. It may apply to an institution, program, or individual.

Governing Board

A group of elected and/or appointed individuals with legal and fiduciary ~~responsibility~~responsibility for the institution.

Graduation/Completion Rate

The percentage of full-time, degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate students who attended college for the first time 6 years ago in the fall semester and who graduated from their program with 150% of the published time required for a full-time student to complete all requirements for graduation.

Grievance Procedures

A process whereby a student or employee may register a concern or complaint with the appropriate officials with a view to resolution.

Higher Education

Formal academic education at the post-secondary level that typically results in one or more academic credentials.

Holistic Development

An approach that views each student as an integrated whole and attempts to stimulate growth in the totality of being (i.e., mind, body, soul, and spirit).

Human Resources

The personnel available to enable an institution to realize its mission and goals.

Improvement Plan

Documented plans, including timeframes, strategies for achievement, assignment of responsibilities for execution, and cost analysis for implementation. Such plans are not limited to but should intentionally address (1) weaknesses identified through self-study, (2) assessment findings, and (3), longer term or strategic initiatives supporting mission achievement. Improvement plans should reference data and conclusions drawn from the assessment plan, self-study, or other research activities as the basis and rationale for implementing improvement strategies. Improvement plans are living documents, updated regularly as needed to reflect institutional change.

Information Literacy

The ability to recognize information needs and locate, evaluate and use information effectively.

Instructional Effectiveness

The knowledge, skills, dispositions, and preparation that result in effective teaching and student learning.

Instructional Modality

The method used to deliver a course (e.g., distance education, face-to-face, mixed modality, correspondence).

Integration

A conscious attempt to find commonalities in the academic components of a curriculum.

Intellectual Property

The products of faculty, staff, and student research and scholarship.

Interdisciplinary

A curriculum or course that consciously applies the methodology and language from two or more academic disciplines to examine common problems, questions, or ideas.

Internal Controls

A comprehensive system of procedures to ensure sound fiscal management.

Language of Instruction

The language used to deliver course and/or program content.

Learning Community

A group of individuals united with a common goal of gaining information and knowledge at a particular location or virtual location.

Learning Resources

The information and services available to support teaching and learning, including text and digital resources, libraries, laboratories, networks, and equipment.

Level of Study

Designation of a course or program by level of educational attainment (e.g., certificate, associate, bachelor, master, doctorate).

Licensure

The permission needed from an appropriate authority to engage in an educational or professional activity.

Licensure Pass Rate

The percentage of candidates for licensure (e.g., teacher education, nursing) that took a licensure exam and achieved a passing score, usually within a given timeframe.

Major or Concentration

A primary focused area of study in an academic degree or certificate usually comprised of a minimum of 24 credit hours in a single discipline or subject area (typically called a major in undergraduate programs or a concentration in graduate programs). Required credits may vary by state or province. A new primary focus area (program) must be approved by the COA in accordance with the *Policy on Substantive Change and Required Notifications*.

Management Letter

A document prepared and provided by an auditor, addressed to the Board or other Management, that discusses findings and recommendations of improvements in internal control and other management issues. The Management Letter should not be confused with the Management Representation Letter, which is from the Institution to the Auditor; or the Independent Auditor's Report, which is given as part of the financial statements audit. The management letter is sometimes titled, "Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards." See "Financial Audit."

Matriculation

Enrollment in an educational institution with intent to complete a designated program.

Measures, Qualitative

Academic evaluation procedures that utilize data such as interviews, surveys, or personal assessments.

Measures, Quantitative

Academic evaluation procedures that utilize statistical comparisons of objective data such as pre- and post-testing, graduation rates, or job placement rates.

Ministry Preparation

Cultivation of the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and practical experiences necessary for effective service for Christ.

Minor or Emphasis

A secondary study area (sub-program) in an academic degree or certificate usually comprised of a minimum of 15 credit hours in a single discipline or subject area (typically called a minor in undergraduate programs or an emphasis in graduate programs). Required credits may vary by state or province. The COA does not monitor or verify sub-programs.

Missionally Relevant

A factor or category closely connected or appropriate to the purpose or intended impact of an institution or program.

Mission Statement

A concise statement of the institution's purpose, scope of operation or service context, and intended impact.

New Student Orientation

A program offered at the outset of a student's experience addressing academic, social, emotional and intellectual issues, related to the pursuit of biblical higher education.

Non-Profit Institution

A college or university organized for purposes other than generating profit.

Open Admission

A policy under which virtually all secondary school graduates or students with a GED equivalency diploma are admitted with minimal regard for academic record, test scores or other qualifications.

Operational Unit

A specific department or work function in the institution (e.g., business office, library, student life office).

Opinioned Audit

See *Financial Audit*.

Outcome

The anticipated, specific, and measurable result of an activity or set of activities. An *intended* outcome communicates the sought-after or desired result. An *actual* outcome is the consequence or end result of an activity or set of activities that has been measured and can be demonstrated to be the product of those activities.

Outcome, Institutional Effectiveness

An anticipated or intended result of the functions of the institution, an operational unit, or support service. Institutional effectiveness outcomes should be measurable and be stated in terms of what the institution, operational unit, or support service will accomplish in support of institutional mission.

Outcome, Institutional Learning

An anticipated or intended result of completion of any academic program offered by the institution. Institutional learning outcomes should be measurable and stated in terms of what

a student completing any academic program at the institution will know, be able to do, or believe/affirm.

Outcome, Program Learning

An anticipated or intended result of completion of an academic program. Program learning outcomes should be measurable and stated in terms of what a student completing the program will know, be able to do, or believe/affirm.

Planning Documents

See *Improvement Plans*

Planning Process

An on-going systematic procedure involving institutional personnel in analyzing and evaluating assessment data and determining the future direction of the institution.

Practices

The actual application of or adherence to institutional policies and procedures.

Preaccreditation

The status of accreditation and public recognition that a nationally recognized accrediting agency grants to an institution or program for a limited period of time signifying that the agency has determined that the institution or program is progressing toward full accreditation and is likely to attain full accreditation before the expiration of that limited period of time. In the ABHE context, this level of recognition is called “candidate status.”

Prerequisites

A course or other requirement that must be completed prior to enrolling in a specific course or program.

Prior Learning

Knowledge, skills, and/or competencies acquired through formal or informal education outside the traditional postsecondary academic environment.

Privacy Rights

Freedom from unauthorized intrusion into a student or employee’s personal affairs.

Probation Status

Probation is a negative, public action indicating that the COA has determined that the institution no longer complies with one or more of the Standards for Accreditation. The institution retains accredited or candidate status with ABHE during a period of probation, and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by COA staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the COA must take adverse action against the

institution and remove its accreditation or candidate status. Where there is sufficient progress, the COA may grant a one-year extension of accreditation or candidate status for “good cause” to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. An institution on probation and/or show cause for two years cannot be returned to warning.

Professional Development

Organized institutional support for faculty and staff to advance in the knowledge, skills, competencies, and traits that contribute to effectiveness in their roles and achievement of institutional mission.

Professional Programs

A program of study that provides an understanding of and competence in a given vocational field (e.g., ministry, business, information technology) and/or prepares graduates for positions requiring specific certification or licensure (e.g., nursing, teacher education).

Professional Studies

Courses that provide an understanding of and competence in a vocational field.

Program

A primary focused area of study in an academic degree, certificate, or diploma, usually comprised of 24 or more credit hours in a single discipline or subject area (typically called a major in undergraduate programs or a concentration in graduate programs). Required credits may vary by state or province. New programs must be approved by the COA in accordance with the *Policy on Substantive Change and Required Notifications*.

Program Review

An organized, regularly occurring process that evaluates the effectiveness of academic programs and helps identify their needs, priorities, and future direction.

Published

Documented and made available to relevant stakeholders.

Qualified Personnel

Individuals with competencies appropriate for their responsibilities, often demonstrated through degrees and experience consistent with industry or market standards.

Reference Services

Assistance provided by professional librarians to students or faculty in their research efforts.

Regulatory Requirements Evaluation (RRE)

An evaluation checklist completed by the institution, evaluation team, and Commission readers during institutional reviews for candidate status, initial accreditation, and

reaffirmation of accreditation to confirm that all relevant federal regulatory requirements have been reviewed.

Remedial Services

Instruction designed for students deficient in general competencies necessary for postsecondary studies. These courses often grant credit that does not count toward graduation.

Retention Rate

The percentage of students who persist in their educational program, typically from first year of enrollment to the same period the following year.

Risk Management

The process of planning for and taking action to minimize potential adverse effects related to emergency management, insurance claims, cyber security, natural disasters, international travel, sexual assault responses, reputational issues, and other institutional challenges.

Sanction

A public, negative action (i.e., warning, probation, or show cause) indicating that the institution no longer complies with one or more Standards for Accreditation. The institution retains accredited or candidate status during a period of sanction, and is subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by COA staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the COA must take adverse action against the institution and remove its accreditation or candidate status. Where there is sufficient progress, the COA may grant a one-year extension of accreditation or candidate status for “good cause” to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Standards for Accreditation.

Self-Study

A self-evaluation process and report that assesses the extent to which an institution satisfies ABHE Standards for Accreditation. The self-study report describes how the institution satisfies the Standards and Essential Elements and includes exhibits that document that the Standards are consistently met. Where weaknesses exist, the self-study report accurately and candidly identifies areas in need of improvement and provides action plans to address them.

Show Cause

An order from the COA that an institution show cause why its accreditation or candidate status should be continued. Failure to achieve compliance with the specified standard(s) by the deadline imposed by the COA will result in removal of the institution’s status with the COA.

Spiritual Formation

The process utilized by an institution to foster growth in Christian character and maturity.

Staff

Non-administrative and non-instructional personnel who provide support services to the institution.

Standards for Accreditation

A written statement of the criteria by which an institution can measure its educational effectiveness and the COA can determine an institution or program's accreditation status.

Statement of Faith

An institution's written declaration of its biblical and theological commitments.

Statistical Abstract

An overall summary of the institution submitted with the self-study that documents programs offered and enrollment, salary, library, finance, and ministry formation data. The statistical abstract provides a four-year snapshot of institutional information for evaluator and commission review.

Student Development

The operational unit of a higher education institution that provides programs and services to support students in the pursuit of intellectual, social, physical, spiritual and professional development.

Student Learning Outcome

An intended, measurable result of a learning activity or set of activities describing what a student will know, be able to do, or believes/affirms.

Student Success

A measure of student engagement and achievement throughout the college experience, often assessed with indicators such as retention, completion, and graduate placement or employment rates.

Subsidiary of a Parent Organization

A semi-autonomous, non-profit institution that is sponsored and/or controlled to some extent by another organization (e.g., church, ministry, other non-profit, for-profit organization)

Teaching Load

The assigned responsibilities of an instructor, including teaching and non-teaching activities.

Teach-Out

A process during which a program, institution, or institutional location that provides 100% of at least one program engages in an orderly closure or when, following the closure of an institution or campus, another institution provides an opportunity for the students of the closed school to complete their program, regardless of their academic progress at the time of closure.

Teach-Out Agreement

A written agreement between institutions that provides for the equitable treatment of students and a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of study if an institution, or an institutional location that provides 100% of at least one program offered, ceases to operate or plans to cease operations before all enrolled students have completed their program of study.

Teach-Out Plan

A written plan developed by an institution that provides for the equitable treatment of students if an institution, or an institutional location that provides 100% of at least one program, ceases to operate or plans to cease operations before all enrolled students have completed their program of study.

Team/Co-Teaching

An instructional approach where two or more instructors share course implementation. In an instance where one instructor is appropriately credentialed to instruct in a course and one or more instructor(s) are not appropriately credentialed to instruct in a course, the appropriately credentialed instructor should be involved in, at least, 50% of the overall course implementation (e.g., course design, course instruction, course grading, student engagement, etc.).

Technological Resources

Electronic equipment, communication systems, information systems, and other software (local, hosted, or cloud-based) used to enhance and advance instruction, research, and institutional quality.

Tenets of Faith

ABHE's statement of biblical and theological commitments subscribed to annually by each member institution through the signature of the president.

Terminal Degree

The highest achievable degree in an academic field or professional discipline, usually a doctoral degree, but may include certain professional degrees such as the MSW, MLS, MBA, or MFA.

Theological Reflection

The conscious examination of experiences and their meaning in light of biblical/theological truth.

Title IV

Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) relates to administration of federal student financial aid programs for postsecondary students.

Transfer Credit

Academic credits completed at another institution and applied to an academic program in process according to the institution's policies.

Transfer Out Rate

The percentage of students who attended college for the first time 6 years ago in the fall semester who did not graduate from the program but transferred to another institution or program.

Values

Core beliefs or principles that guide how an institution pursues mission achievement.

Vision

An inspirational description of an institution's desired future state.

Vocational Competence

Demonstrable skills, knowledge, and experience relevant to a particular role, profession, or calling.

Warning Status

Warning is a negative, public action indicating that the COA has determined that an institution is in substantial compliance with ABHE standards, but meets one or more standards with sufficient weakness that, if the current trend is not altered, the institution is in jeopardy of being found out of compliance with a standard in the near future and placed on probation. The institution retains accredited or candidate status with ABHE during a period of warning, and is subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by COA staff or evaluation teams. If weaknesses are not resolved within the time specified (usually one year), the COA may (1) extend the warning for a second year, (2) place the institution on probation, (3) order the institution to show cause why its accreditation or candidate status should be continued, or (4) withdraw accreditation or candidate status. Warning is rarely extended beyond two years. Rather, an institution that fails to strengthen specified weaknesses by a stated COA deadline is placed on probation.