

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*

Second call for comment on Standard 1. 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 adoption.

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 but not limited to financial management, admissions, academic programs, student services, ~~media, policy implementation, and~~ institutional governance, with and consistency across publications and media.
2. Compliance with all relevant federal and state/provincial laws and with all oversight agencies, including consistent ~~F~~ fulfillment of applicable Commission policies and requirements ~~as demonstrated by and~~ honest, complete, and timely communication with the Commission-~~regarding compliance with all oversight agencies~~.
3. ~~Written~~ Published and consistently adhered to policies ~~and documented processes and~~ procedures that ensure equitable and consistent treatment of students and employees, (including grievance and/or complaint 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 and consistently adhered to policies and procedures ~~that address for~~ protection of student privacy, transparency in safety and on-campus crime, and provision for redress of sexual and other forms of harassment ~~(including sexual harassment)~~ that might be experienced by ~~institutional stakeholders (including students, staff, or faculty or employees, administration, and board members)~~.
5. Published and consistently adhered to policies and procedures for protection of the campus community from threat of harm or loss, including security and crisis response measures.
- 4-6. A board, faculty, and staff reflective of the institution's constituency and the students it serves, and consistent with institutional theological distinctives.
- 5-7. Institutional values and practices that foster an educational community characterized by mutual respect, hospitality, and service.

- ~~6.8.~~ A clearly written mission statement appropriate to biblical higher education, developed and periodically ~~reviewed~~ evaluated by ~~broad representation from all sectors of the institution~~ institutional stakeholders, ~~and~~ ratified by the governing board, and publicly available on the institution's website and in relevant publications.
- ~~7.~~ ~~A mission statement easily located on the institution's website and in its catalog(s).~~
- ~~8.9.~~ A The mission statement ~~that~~ guides ~~faculty, staff, administration, and the governing board in~~ institutional operations, planning, resource allocation, and program development.

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 but not limited to financial management, admissions, ~~and policy implementation, with~~ and consistency across related publications and media.
2. Compliance with all relevant federal and state/provincial laws and with all oversight agencies, including consistent ~~F~~ fulfillment of applicable Commission policies and requirements, ~~as demonstrated by~~ and honest, complete, and timely communication with ~~all oversight agencies~~ the Commission.
3. ~~Written~~ Published and consistently adhered to policies and ~~documented processes~~ procedures that ensure equitable and consistent treatment of students and employees in accredited programs.
4. Program values and practices that foster 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.