



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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Policy

Institutions Located Outside the United States

Under its charter and in fulfillment of its mission, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (the Commission) has extended its accreditation to a number of U.S. institutions outside the U.S. and its territories. The original policy statement under which these institutions were granted accreditation stated that they were “intended primarily to serve U.S. nationals abroad.” The policy was subsequently applied to institutions abroad meeting Commission standards for U.S. style institutions.

The Commission is authorized by its Bylaws and by its own Requirements of Affiliation to accredit foreign institutions that meet Commission standards in accordance with this policy.

U.S. Institutions Abroad

An institution of higher education, established under American auspices outside the United States and its territories, chartered or licensed to grant academic degrees by the appropriate agency of a state within the Middle States region, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, may initiate application for institutional accreditation by following the procedures outlined in the publication, “Becoming Accredited: Handbook for Applicants and Candidates for Accreditation”.

Non-U.S. Institutions Abroad

Although the Commission has the authority to waive its requirement, currently the Commission accepts applications only from institutions with degree-granting authority from an appropriate governmental organization within the Middle States region, including Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Procedures

An overseas institution will bear all costs of assessment, evaluation, and staff and evaluator visits, as well as paying the dues and fees required of members. Please see “Schedule of Dues and Fees.”

Please see policy, “International Travel by Commission Staff and Volunteers,” for limitations on travel by staff and volunteers under certain conditions, and the effect of these limitations on initial and continuing accreditation.

*Policy: Institutions Located Outside the United States*²

The Commission on Higher Education reserves the right to alter threshold conditions when appropriate.

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