Accreditation

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Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
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www.flbog.edu
Overview of Activities

March - April
- Board staff began background research
- Bi-weekly meetings of university accreditation liaisons began mid-April

May
- Chancellor & Florida College System staff had initial meetings with leaders of potential accreditors
- Board staff collaborated with university staff to develop questions for accreditors

June - July
- Chancellor met with U.S. Department of Education Undersecretary
- University staff compiled & submitted information on costs & processes
- Completed follow-up meetings with staff from potential accreditors
- University liaisons evaluated standards
- Vice Chancellor met with U.S. Department of Education staff

August
- Collaborated with university liaisons to finalize report
In 2020, Federal Rule changed to allow accreditors to work with universities outside of the traditional regional boundaries.
### Accreditor Member Universities

#### U.S. News & World Report
Top 100 Public Universities*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accreditor</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLC</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACSCOC</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Florida universities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCHE</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSCUC</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>NECHE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWCCU</td>
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#### Association of American Universities

<table>
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<tr>
<td>HLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSCUC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACSCOC</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Florida university</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCHE</td>
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<td>NWCCU</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NECHE</td>
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</table>

*Total number of institutions exceeds 100 due to ties in the rankings.
All regional accreditors must meet U.S. Department of Education requirements.

- Standards are designed to emphasize quality & student success
- Universities distinguish themselves by going beyond the standards to achieve a higher level of quality
- All six accreditors have generally comparable standards relative to the following:
  - Integrity
  - Mission
  - Eligibility
  - Governance
  - Administration & organization
  - Faculty
  - Planning & effectiveness
  - Student achievement
  - Academic programs
  - Academic & student support services
  - Financial & physical resources
  - Library & learning/information resources
  - Transparency & institutional representation
  - Educational policies, procedures, & practices
Most costs are university expenses

Expenses & workload will temporarily increase during the transition to a new accreditor

Current SACSCOC Annual Costs

- University Expenses
  - Personnel
  - Consultants
  - Software
  - Site visits
  - Reporting requirements
  - Accreditation cycle

  Annual Average
  - $11M - $13M

- Accreditation Fees
  - Start-up fees
  - Monitoring / Reaffirmation fees
  - Annual dues

  Annual Average
  - $220K - $250K
Changing accreditors likely will not significantly change annual university expenses.
State University System accreditation liaisons note there is a beneficial synergy to having all universities accredited by the same accreditor.

Each accreditor’s governing board determines the extent to which an accreditor can expand membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HLC</th>
<th>MSCHE</th>
<th>NECEH</th>
<th>NWCCU</th>
<th>WSCUC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Institutions</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>235</td>
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<td>High-quality Standards</td>
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<td>10+ Member Institutions in</td>
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<td>National Leadership Positions</td>
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<td>Planning for Substantive Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Accreditation Cycle Fees*</td>
<td>$2.7M</td>
<td>$2.4M</td>
<td>$5M</td>
<td>$2.4M</td>
<td>$6.6M</td>
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</table>

*This does not include university expenses such as personnel, consultants, site visits, & software.

Does not accredit institutions whose primary mission is to grant associate degrees.

Because of their current size, NECEH & NWCC may expand beyond traditional regional boundaries at a more moderate pace than the others.
Changing accreditors is a multi-step process

U.S. Department of Education provides initial approval & final acknowledgment

Voluntary Membership

U.S. Department of Education only recognizes accreditors with voluntary membership

Process

1. Universities must receive approval from the U.S. Department of Education to switch accreditors. Universities must provide:
   - accreditation & preaccreditation materials
   - reasonable cause
2. Apply for membership with a different accreditor while maintaining SACSCOC accreditation
3. Receive membership from a different accreditor & notify U.S. Department of Education
4. Maintain accreditation with SACSCOC until the U.S. Department of Education has provided written notice that it acknowledges the change in accreditor
Universities will provide regular reports to the Board & participate in regular meetings with Board staff

Universities will begin the process of switching accreditors after their next reaffirmation or fifth-year review*

2023
- UCF
- FL Poly

2024
- FAMU
- FAU
- FSU
- UF

2025
- FGCU
- UNF
- USF
- UWF
- NCF

2026
- FIU

2027

*Dates universities will initiate the change in accreditor are dependent upon the outcome of each university’s review & are subject to change.