

Implementing the Accreditation Provisions in the HEOA

Mary Beth Kait – Senior Director for
Policy & Planning, MSCHE

Barbara Samuel Loftus – Vice
President, MSCHE

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008

- Understanding the HEOA regulations implementing accreditation provisions in HEOA
- Agreed by the negotiated rulemaking committee on accreditation

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008

US Dept of Education

www.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html

Federal Register

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25186.htm>

CHEA – Final Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions in HEOA

www.chea.org/pdf/FedUpdate_Chart_11.09.pdf

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Fall 2009 Newsletter

www.msche.org/news_newsletter.asp

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- **Distance Education**

- *Uses technology to deliver instruction to students; separated from instructor; regular interaction between students & instructor*

- **Correspondence Education**

- *Provides instructional materials by mail/e-mail to students separated from instructor; self-paced courses; interaction is not regular or substantive*

- **Evaluation Team Members**

- *Attention to distance education & correspondence education*

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- **Student Achievement Standard**
 - *Institutions set their own standards for student achievement*
- **Transfer of Credit Policies & Articulation Agreements**
 - *Publicly disclosed policies*
 - *Public criteria by which an institution makes a determination with regard to accepting credits from another institution*
 - *List of institutions with which the institution has established an articulation agreement*

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- **Teach-Out Plans**

- *Establish plans to provide students with appropriate opportunity to complete a program in the event that a program/location providing 100% of at least one program is to be discontinued*

- **Direct Assessment Programs**

- *“... an instructional program that, in lieu of credit hours or clock hours, utilizes direct assessment of student learning, or recognizes the direct assessment of student learning by others...”*

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- **Monitoring of Institution & Programs – Significant Growth**
 - *Institutions that offer distance education or correspondence education & experience a 50% or higher increase of institutional headcount enrollment during a fiscal year*
- **Substantive Change**
 - *Approvals cannot be retroactive; submit requests for approval in advance of expected implementation date*
 - *Note: institutions contracting with non-Title IV certified institution to offer more than 25% of one or more educational programs = substantive change*

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- **Due Process**

- *Specify how MSCHE deals with due process and appeals process for appealing institutions*

- **Notification of Accrediting Decisions**

- *MSCHE provides notification of accrediting decisions to the Dept of Ed & State licensing/authorizing agency at the same time the institution or program of the decision is notified*

Regulations Implementing Accreditation Provisions

- Guidelines on Degrees and Credits
 - *Commission's Requirement of Affiliation*
 - www.msche.org/documents/Degree-and-Credit-Guidelines-062209-FINAL.doc
- Certification Statement
 - *MSCHE Requirements of Affiliation*
 - *Federal Title IV Requirements*
 - *MSCHE Related Entities Policy*
 - www.msche.org/publications/certificationstatementeffectiveoct09.doc