

B1.2 Postsecondary Schools

ACS WASC accredits public adult schools and/or non-degree granting postsecondary schools of higher education.

No postsecondary school seeking accreditation will be considered eligible for candidacy or accreditation unless it has a charter and/or formal authority from an appropriate governmental agency (where such agency exists) to award a certificate or diploma. To be eligible a school must meet all legal requirements to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level.

[Updated January 2019; April 2022]

B1.2.1 Distance Education

[Removed January 2019]

B1.2.2 Age of Students

Postsecondary schools are not precluded from admitting to postsecondary programs, under different requirements, students who are beyond the age of compulsory high school attendance, such as having identified needs requiring remedial instruction as a supplement to the regular curriculums or being enrolled in individual courses not leading to an academic credential.

B1.2.3 Transfer of Credit Policy

Accredited institutions have a responsibility to provide for effective transfer of credit that minimizes student difficulties in moving between institutions while assuring the high quality of their education. Each institution is responsible for determining its own policies and practices with regard to the transfer and award of credit. Institutions shall establish policies on the transfer of credit that are clearly stated and that function in a manner that is fair and equitable to students. Institutions shall be responsible for careful evaluation of credits that students wish to transfer. Institutions must balance responsiveness to student's preferences about transfer of credit and institutional commitment to the value and quality of programs and courses the institutions offers. Transfer of credit policies are to be publicly disclosed. Disclosure statements must include the criteria established by the institution regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution.

B1.2.4 Teach-out Plans and Agreements

Accredited institutions shall develop a written teach-out plan that provides for the equitable treatment of students and provides a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of study if an institution, or an institutional location that provides one hundred percent of at least one program, ceases to operate before all enrolled students have completed their program of study. The teach-out plan shall include a teach-out agreement with other institution(s) where necessary to provide the opportunity for students to complete their program of study.

Each teach-out plan shall be summarized in the institutional catalog or other similar publication. Teach-out plans shall cover the contingency when:

- ACS WASC acts to withhold, terminate, or deny the accreditation of the institution;
- The institution notifies ACS WASC that the institution intends to cease operations.

The original accredited institution shall agree that, in the event a separate teach-out institution becomes necessary, the original institution will arrange, in a timely manner, for individual notice