Important Reminder: COVID-19 Temporary Flexibilities Set to Expire September 30, 2021

ACCET is continuing to closely monitor the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and is committed to providing our member institutions with additional guidance as it becomes available. As previously shared with the ACCET membership in April 2021, the ACCET Commission approved an extension of temporary flexibilities until September 30, 2021 for ACCET institutions in response to COVID-19, as permitted by the U.S. Department of Education and published in the Federal Register (Vol. 85, No. 239).

These temporary flexibilities provide a framework designed to help students and identify options available to institutions, and cover areas such as: temporary closures, temporary distance learning delivery, change in student enrollment status (not available to IEPs), consortium agreements (not available to IEPs), temporary change in location (only available to IEPs), externships, labs, verification of high school (or equivalent), completion status, leaves of absences, satisfactory academic progress, and completion and placement flexibilities.

Of particular importance, ACCET-accredited institutions have been permitted to temporarily offer distance learning (IDL) without program approval to new students through September 30, 2021, with the notable exception that the Student Exchange Visitors Program (SEVP) did not permit the enrollment of new F-1 and M-1 students. ACCET reminds our accredited member institutions that the Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) Template must be completed by institutions offering courses and/or programs via IDL technology and methodology beyond September 30, 2021. To ensure that IDL training is appropriate in content and length, ACCET will review IDL programs and/or courses, including those offered in an online, asynchronous delivery mode, to verify that clock hour requirements are met and that the length of the programs and/or courses (clock hours and/or credit hours) is appropriate and educationally sound.

ACCET continues to engage with our regulatory partners in an effort to gain a better understanding as to whether or not the U.S. Department of Education will extend the temporary flexibilities beyond the current published expiration date of September 30, 2021 and will update the membership as warranted. Additionally, depending on the duration and severity of COVID-19, the Commission may decide, in the future, to review its policies in such areas as completion/placement waivers and benchmarks.

Institutions are also advised to frequently check the websites of the U.S. Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- [https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus)
- [http://who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](http://who.int/health-topics/coronavirus)

ACCET-accredited institutions are encouraged to contact Christopher Lambert, ACCET Executive Director at chris@accet.org or 703.434.0693 with any questions.