

§602.18 Ensuring consistency in decision-making.

The agency must consistently apply and enforce standards that ~~do not violate~~ respect the stated mission of the institution, including religious mission, and that ensure that the education or training offered by an institution or program, including any offered through distance education, ~~or correspondence courses, or direct assessment~~ education, is of sufficient quality to achieve its stated objective for the duration of any accreditation or preaccreditation period. ~~granted by the agency.~~ The agency meets this requirement if the agency—

- (a) Has written specification of the requirements for accreditation and preaccreditation that include clear standards for an institution or program to be accredited, and such standards shall address how an institution's stated mission, including religious mission, shall be respected ~~that take into account institutional mission;~~
- (b) Has effective controls against the inconsistent application of the agency's standards;
- (c) Bases decisions regarding accreditation and preaccreditation on the agency's published standards;
- (d) Has a reasonable basis for determining that the information the agency relies on for making accrediting decisions is accurate; ~~and~~
- (e) Provides the institution or program with a detailed written report that clearly identifies any deficiencies in the institution's or program's compliance with the agency's standards;
- ~~(b) At the request of an institution, performs a review of the agency's respect for the institution's stated mission, including religious mission, and provides a written report of the results of that review;~~
- (f) Does not deny preaccreditation or accreditation, or take action against an institution or program, due to an institution's adherence to its religious mission in any of its particular policies or and practices specific to religious tenets, beliefs or teachings and, as applicable, to housing, student life and activities, employment, curriculum, facilities, self-governance, student admission, continuing enrollment, or graduation; and
- (g) Publishes any policies for retroactive application of an accreditation decision.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)