



**NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**Mission Statement
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is an entity of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a voluntary not-for-profit corporation whose members are accredited institutions. The geographical scope of the Association's activities includes New England and other areas designated by its Trustees which now include certain overseas locations.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has the following mission:

The Commission develops, makes public and applies criteria for the assessment of educational effectiveness among institutions of higher education leading to actions on their institutional accreditation. By this means, the Commission assures the educational community, the public and interested agencies that accredited institutions have clearly defined objectives which meet with criteria published by the Commission; that they have the organization, staffing and resources to accomplish, are accomplishing and can continue to accomplish these objectives. In addition, through its process of assessment, the Commission encourages and assists in the improvement, effectiveness and excellence of affiliated educational institutions.

The Commission limits its activities to those institutions awarding the bachelor's, master's or doctor's degrees and those institutions awarding the associate's degree which include in their offerings programs in liberal arts or general studies.

In the fulfillment and furtherance of its mission, the Commission undertakes various activities including the following:

1. establishes and maintains an evaluative process to assess the capacity of affiliated institutions to accomplish their goals by emphasizing institutional self-and peer evaluation through the application of the Commission's criteria and standards;
2. apart from the evaluative process, maintains a relationship with affiliated

institutions to monitor their adherence to the criteria and standards of the Commission and to identify ways the Commission can further assist in the advancement of institutional effectiveness;

3. advances institutional self-regulation by requiring or encouraging ethical and otherwise good practices in the accomplishment of educational and related activities;
4. assists institutions in understanding the criteria and *Standards for Accreditation*;
5. upon appropriate inquiry, discloses accurate and appropriate information about affiliated institutions and through the Association regularly disseminates public notice regarding the current status of all affiliated institutions;
6. works closely with the other Commissions of the Association to advance their mutual purposes;
7. cooperates with governmental agencies and other accrediting associations connected with affiliated institutions on matters of mutual concern;
8. seeks to establish and maintain relationships with other groups interested in and involved with accreditation and the improvement of educational effectiveness;
9. encourages and participates in efforts directed toward the study of current issues related to the evaluation and improvement of educational institutions;
10. conducts the evaluation of its own activities, including its criteria and standards, to assure itself and others relying on its efforts that the Commission fulfills its purposes to the greatest extent possible.

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