



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

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**Program of Special Monitoring
following Change of Ownership or Control**

The Commission realizes that accreditation is not an event but a relationship, and that when an institution undergoes a change in ownership or control, the relationship with the Commission will necessarily need to be re-established.

Therefore, in approving a change of ownership or control, the Commission will determine a Program of Special Monitoring for the institution, which will include the following elements and may include other elements designed to ensure that the institution continues to meet the *Standards for Accreditation*.

Following the comprehensive evaluation specified below, the Commission will re-consider the conditions of Special Monitoring and may continue the Special Monitoring, modify the Special Monitoring, or establish normal monitoring consistent with the Commission's other policies and procedures.

While this policy does not automatically apply to the merger of two institutions under a similar form of control (e.g., two public institutions, two independent institutions, two for-profit institutions of the same owner), the Commission may adopt one or more elements of the Special Monitoring to apply in such cases or in other cases that the Commission deems appropriate.

The Commission's determination that the institution will be under Special Monitoring will be made public by the Commission and, under terms specified by the Commission, by the institution.

Limitations and Disclosures

1. The institution cannot change its ownership, name, principal location, or mission without the prior approval of the Commission.
2. Prior approval of substantive changes is required per the Commission's policy, including:
 - Any new instructional locations or branch campuses;
 - Any additional programs delivered through distance education;
 - Relationships with outside non-Title IV-eligible entities, including the parent organization, for any distance education programming and any other matter involving the recruitment and admission of students, recruitment and selection of faculty, design and development of curriculum, student services, and delivery of instruction;
 - New programs outside the existing scope of mission of the institution;
 - New programs at any degree level that enrolls less than 20% of the FTE students at the time of the sale;

- Any other change that is determined by the Commission to represent a substantive change.
3. Prior approval is required for:
 - Any proposed elimination or suspension or new limitation on enrollment in any majors or degree programs;
 - Any change in the internal governance of the institution that may be inconsistent with the Commission's Standards for Accreditation
 4. Disclosure is required for any involvement of any parent organization in:
 - Recruitment
 - Admissions
 - Financial aid
 - Employment of full- and part-time employees
 - Board governance
 - Design, limitation, or modification of curriculum

Visits and reports. The following will be required during the period of Program of Special Monitoring

1. A report and visit within six months of completing the sale.
2. Annual reports to the Commission including completed Data First and E and S forms, along with a copy of the audit and management letter and other information as the Commission may request.
3. Comprehensive evaluation no later than three years after completing the sale, date established when the substantive change is approved by the Commission.
4. Report and visit after each substantive change is implemented.
5. Other reports and visits as the Commission may determine.

Other Requirements

The institution undergoing a change in ownership or control must provide a financial guarantee that all students at the institution, including those enrolled at the time of the change and those subsequently enrolled, will be able to finish that degree without substantial disruption to their studies resulting in significantly increased costs to the students.