



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
Board of Trustees

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME:** Academic and Student Affairs

**DATE:** January 29, 2025

**TITLE:** Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.43  
Accreditation (Second Reading)

Action

Review and Discussion

*This item is required by policy*

**PRESENTERS**

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**PURPOSE**

Board Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration, Part 6. Board Policies and System Procedures requires board review and approval of proposed board policy changes and that each board policy is reviewed at least once every five years.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The proposed amendment consists of deleting outdated background information and the term "regional" throughout the policy, replacing the definition for Higher Learning Commission, and clarifying "program accreditation" in Part 4, Subp. B.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION (SECOND READING DRAFT)**

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendment to Policy 3.43.

*Date Presented to the ASA Committee:* 11/19/24

*Date Presented to the Board of Trustees:* Second reading – action taken.

*Date of Implementation:* TBD

## PROPOSED CHANGES (FIRST READING DRAFT)

Single underlining represents proposed new language.

Strikeouts represent existing language proposed to be removed.

### 1 3.43 Accreditation

2

#### 3 Part 1. Purpose

4 To establish accreditation requirements for colleges and universities.

5

#### 6 Part 2. Background

7 Higher education institutions demonstrate that ~~the college or university they~~ and their  
8 educational programs meet minimum standards through accreditation. Accreditation can be  
9 attained at the institutional or programmatic level. Once achieved, accreditation must be  
10 ~~reaffirmed~~renewed periodically to ensure that the quality of the institution and educational  
11 programs is maintained.

12

13 ~~In order for students to receive federal student aid from the U.S. Department of Education for~~  
14 ~~postsecondary study, the institution must be accredited by a federally recognized accreditor.~~

15

16 ~~While there are both regional and national accreditors, regional accreditation uses more~~  
17 ~~stringent standards of quality. Credits earned from regionally accredited institutions are more~~  
18 ~~widely accepted and more easily transferable than credits earned at nationally accredited or~~  
19 ~~non-accredited institutions.~~

20

#### 21 Part 3. Definitions

22

##### 23 Accreditation

24 A process and a status that assures higher education institutions and programs meet a set of  
25 standards developed by peers.

26

##### 27 a. Institutional accreditation

28 Accreditation of an ~~college or university~~ entire institution is determined by institutional  
29 accreditors (formerly regional or national accreditors), indicating that ~~each of the college or~~  
30 ~~university~~ an institution's parts is achieving contributing to the achievement of the  
31 institution's mission, ~~and~~ objectives, and the accreditor's standards.

32

##### 33 b. Program/specialized accreditation

34 Accreditation of ~~an institution's~~ college or university programs that involves examination  
35 of the individual academic units, programs, or disciplinary offerings to ensure they are  
36 providing students with a quality education in a particular area of study. Programmatic  
37 accreditation may be required in some fields for graduates to seek licensure or  
38 certification. Programmatic accreditation in other fields serves to provide a recognition  
39 of quality.

40

##### 41 Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

42 An institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. HLC accredits  
43 degree-granting institutions of higher education in the United States. ~~The Higher Learning~~  
44 ~~Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation that is one of the regional institutional~~  
45 ~~accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational~~

46 ~~institutions in the North Central region (including Minnesota) and is recognized as a regional~~  
47 ~~accreditor by the Secretary of Education.~~

48  
49 **Regional accreditation**

50 ~~The accreditation process used or status granted by one the federally recognized regional~~  
51 ~~accreditors in the United States.~~

52  
53 **Part 4. Accreditation**

54  
55 **Subpart A. ~~Regional Institutional A~~accreditation**

56 Colleges and universities shall achieve and retain ~~regional~~ accreditation through the Higher Learning  
57 Commission. Any college or university that does not maintain accredited status with the Higher  
58 Learning Commission may be subject to loss of degree granting authority.

59  
60 **Subpart B. Program ~~A~~accreditation**

61 For programs that have an accreditation and for which people working in that field must be  
62 licensed or certified for employment, colleges and universities shall achieve and maintain  
63 accreditation for those programs (~~i.e.g., law enforcement~~~~peace officer~~, nursing, dental hygiene,  
64 etc.).

65  
66 ~~For fields that do not require licensure or certification, C~~colleges and universities ~~may obtain are~~  
67 ~~encouraged, though not required, to obtain voluntary~~ program accreditation where appropriate and  
68 aligned with the mission of the college or university (~~i.e.g., automotive technician, business,~~  
69 chemistry, etc.).  
70

71 **Part 5. Report to the Board of Trustees**

72 The chancellor shall provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees on the status of the ~~regional~~  
73 accreditation for each college and university. College and university presidents shall submit an annual  
74 update to the chancellor, or chancellor's designee, on the status of their ~~regional~~ accreditation.

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**Related Documents:**

- [Board Policy 3.36](#) Academic Programs
- [System Procedure 3.36.1](#) Academic Programs

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**Policy History:**

**Date of Adoption:** 1/29/20

**Date of Implementation:** 1/29/20

**Date of Last Review:** n/a

**Date & Subject of Revisions:** n/a

~~XX/XX/2024 – Full review, deleted the following: outdated background information, the term "regional" throughout the policy, replaced the definition for Higher Learning Commission, and clarified program accreditation in Part 4, Subp. B.~~

No additional HISTORY