

*New Policy for Handbook*

## **Policy on Instruction in Languages Other Than English**

An institution seeking to offer a degree program in which 50% or more of the instruction is taught in a language other than English may do so after review and approval from the Substantive Change Committee. Degree programs must be brought for review whether they are being offered within or outside the United States. At the time of reviewing the first such program offered by an institution, the Substantive Change Committee will make a determination if additional programs in languages other than English will require Substantive Change Committee review and approval.

The institution must be able to demonstrate that it has the capacity to offer the program in a manner consistent with Commission Standards. The following guidelines highlight the most salient issues that must be addressed in the Proposal to the Substantive Change Committee.

- (1) All baccalaureate programs are expected to ensure the development of core learning abilities and competencies, including competency in college-level written and oral communication (see Criterion for Review 2.2). Accordingly, an institution offering a baccalaureate program in a language of instruction other than English must define appropriate entry-level language requirements and ensure the development of college-level written and oral competency in that language.
- (2) Regardless of the language of instruction, if a baccalaureate or professional program is being taught within the United States, the institution must establish appropriate competency goals in the English language, provide sufficient instruction in English to make it possible for students to achieve those goals, and have means for assessing success in achieving the goals.
- (3) The institution must be able to provide students with student support services in the language of instruction and have mechanisms in place to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of such services.
- (4) There is a sufficient number of academically qualified faculty, regularly appointed by the institution, responsible for instruction and oversight of the program in the language of instruction.
- (5) The faculty offering the program are sufficiently proficient in English to interact with the institution's other faculty and administration or the institution has developed effective mechanisms for ensuring their communication with the wider institutional community, including appropriate review and evaluation of their work.
- (6) The institution has developed mechanisms for periodic evaluation of the program's currency and effectiveness, including achievement of student learning goals.
- (7) The institution has sufficient information resources in the language of instruction to support the program.

*Adopted by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, November 9, 2001.*