

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education**

**National Advisory Committee
on Institutional Quality and Integrity**



Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Committee Activities: Fiscal Year 2016

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)

Annual Report to the Secretary of Education and Congress

Table of Contents

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
Overview	1
I. Committee Agendas and Activities during Fiscal Year 2016	1
• Agenda: December 16-18, 2015	Attachment A
• Report of Meeting: December 16-18, 2015	Attachment B
• Agenda: June 22-24, 2016	Attachment C
• Report of Meeting: June 22-24, 2016	Attachment D
• Agenda: August 23, 2016	Attachment E
• Report of Meeting: August 23, 2016	Attachment F
• Pilot Project Standardized Questions	Attachment G
• Accreditor Data Dashboards	Attachment H
II. Date and Location of the NACIQI Meetings	2
III. Committee Membership	3
• List of Members	Attachment I
IV. Committee Functions	3
V. Sources of Additional Information about the Committee	4

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND CONGRESS**

Overview

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee) respectfully submits this fiscal year 2017 report on its activities during fiscal year 2016 to the Secretary of Education (Secretary) and to Congress. Section 114(e)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), mandates that NACIQI produce an annual report that contains four items:

- A detailed summary of the agenda and activities of, and the findings and recommendations made by, the Committee during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the report is made;
- A list of the date and location of each meeting during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the report is made;
- A list of the members of the Committee; and
- A list of the functions of the Committee, including any additional functions established by the Secretary through regulation.

I. Committee Agenda and Activities During Fiscal Year 2016

NACIQI held three meetings during FY 2016:

- December 16-18, 2015
- June 22-24, 2016
- August 23, 2016

Meeting agendas are provided with this report (Attachments A, C and E).

All meetings were held in the DC-area. NACIQI deliberated on accrediting agency submissions, and advanced its policy agenda to advise the senior Department official on matters concerning accreditation, the recognition process, and the eligibility and certification process for institutions under Title IV of the HEA. The Committee received training on its responsibilities at the meetings, and were addressed by Department leadership regarding the Department's postsecondary initiatives and accreditation executive actions.

During FY 2016, NACIQI reviewed the following types of applications:

- One application for initial recognition of an accrediting agency;
- Seventeen applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies;
- Seven compliance reports from accrediting agencies;
- Two reviews under 34 CFR 602.33;
- Three applications for renewal of recognition from State agencies for the approval of nurse education;
- Four applications for renewal of recognition from State agencies for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education; and
- One notification of a substantive change from a military educational institution.

NACIQI heard from over one hundred oral commenters in FY 2016. The Committee received training on criteria concerning student achievement. Department staff also introduced data available on the Committee website and College Scorecard to support NACIQI’s efforts to focus on student outcomes in evaluating the performance of recognized accrediting agencies.

Throughout FY 2016, NACIQI continued its discussion of how to frame its policy agenda to inform the agency recognition process and to develop broader perspectives about how accrediting agencies consider data about student achievement. The Committee developed a pilot project which included a set of standardized questions to pose to accrediting agencies undergoing recognition proceedings (Attachment G). The pilot project also included consideration in NACIQI’s deliberations of data provided by the accreditor dashboards (Attachment H). The pilot project was launched at the June 2016 meeting, and has now become a standard practice of NACIQI’s review of recognized accrediting agencies.

NACIQI reviews all information submitted by an agency in support of its petition, as well as the staff analysis, and public comments.

A summary of the Committee’s deliberation and the Committee’s recommendations regarding each agency review is provided with this report (see Attachment B, D, and F).

II. Date and Location of NACIQI Meetings

December 16-18, 2015: Hilton Old Town Alexandria
1767 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 22-24, 2016: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
300 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

August 23, 2016: Via Teleconference

III. Committee Membership

NACIQI has 18 members appointed as follows:

- Six members appointed by the Secretary;
- Six members appointed by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, three of whom are appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and three of whom are appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and
- Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, three of whom are appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the U.S. Senate and three of whom are appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the U.S. Senate.

Please refer to Attachment I for the NACIQI member listing, including the nominating source for each member, for fiscal year 2016.

IV. Committee Functions

NACIQI was established by Section 114 of the HEA of 1965, as amended by Section 106 of the HEOA. By law, NACIQI advises the Secretary of Education with respect to the following functions:

1. The establishment and enforcement of the standards of accrediting agencies or associations under Subpart 2 of Part H of Title IV, HEA;
2. The recognition of a specific accrediting agency or association;
3. The preparation and publication of the list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations;
4. The eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, HEA, together with recommendations for improvements in such process;
5. The relationship between:
 - A. Accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions;
 - B. State licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions; and
6. Other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

The Secretary has not prescribed any other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility by regulation for NACIQI.

V. Sources of Additional Information about the Committee

For additional information concerning the Committee's activities, access the NACIQI website at <http://sites.ed.gov/naciqi/>, or contact the Executive Director whose contact information is listed below.

Jennifer Hong, Ed.D.
Executive Director, NACIQI
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW, Room 6W250
Washington, D.C. 20202
Phone: (202) 453-7805
E-mail: Jennifer.Hong@ed.gov