

**National Advisory Committee on
Institutional Quality and Integrity
(NACIQI)**

**Annual Report to the
U.S. Secretary of Education and the U.S. Congress
FY 2018**

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)

Annual Report to the Secretary of Education and Congress

Table of Contents

Overview	1
I. Committee Agendas and Activities during Fiscal Year 2017	1
• Agenda: February 22-24, 2017	Attachment A
• Report of Meeting: February 22-24, 2017	Attachment B
• Agenda: June 20-22, 2017	Attachment C
• Report of Meeting: June 20-22, 2017	Attachment D
• Pilot Project Standardized Questions	Attachment E
• Accreditor Data Dashboards	Attachment F
II. Date and Location of the NACIQI Meetings	2
III. Committee Membership	3
• List of Members	Attachment G
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 2018 report on its activities during fiscal year 2017 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 2017

NACIQI held two meetings during FY 2017:

- February 22-24, 2017
- June 20-22, 2017

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

All meetings were held in the Washington, DC, area. NACIQI deliberated on accrediting agency submissions and advised 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 was addressed by Department leadership. A new Chair and Vice Chair were elected to the Committee during FY 2017.

During FY 2017, NACIQI reviewed the following types of applications:

- Thirteen applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies;
- Two requests for an expansion of scope;
- One compliance report from an accrediting agency;
- One request for authorization of a graduate degree offered by a military educational institution;
- One notification of a redesignation of an existing degree-granting authority by a military educational institution; and
- One application for renewal of recognition of a state agency for the approval of nurse education.

Throughout FY 2017, NACIQI continued its discussion of how to inform the agency recognition process and develop broader perspectives on how accrediting agencies consider data about student achievement. This line of discussion resulted in a “pilot project” that includes consideration in NACIQI’s deliberations of data provided by the accreditor data dashboards (Attachment F) and standardized questions of all accrediting agencies (Attachment E). The pilot project was launched at the June 2016 meeting, and NACIQI passed a motion at its February 2017 meeting to continue to use the pilot project as part of its ongoing deliberations of accrediting agencies.

To inform its agenda, NACIQI also heard a panel presentation from representatives of accrediting agencies and associations regarding how the agencies they represent consider outcome measures as part of their review of institutions. Other information sessions presented to NACIQI include the following: a presentation on student unit record data systems from representatives of two higher education associations and a presentation regarding a report on model accreditation standards for higher education programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

NACIQI heard from 37 oral commenters in FY 2017.

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 deliberations and recommendations regarding each agency review is provided with this report (see Attachments B and D).

II. Date and Location of NACIQI Meetings

February 22-24, 2017	Hilton Old Town Alexandria 1767 King Street
----------------------	--

Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20-22, 2017

Washington Plaza
10 Thomas Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20005

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 G for a list of NACIQI members, including the nominating source for each member, for fiscal year 2017.

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 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, please visit 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 271-03
Washington, D.C. 20202
Phone: (202) 453-7805
E-mail: Jennifer.Hong@ed.gov