

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

**Annual Report to the Secretary of Education and  
Authorizing Committees of Congress**

**Fiscal Year 2022**



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# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS

### Overview

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee) respectfully submits this fiscal year 2022 report on its activities during fiscal year 2021 to the Secretary of Education (Secretary) and to the authorizing committees of Congress. Section 114(e)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires 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 2021

NACIQI held two meetings during FY 2021:

- March 3-5, 2021
- July 27-29, 2021

Meeting agendas are provided with this report (see Attachments A and C). Both meetings were conducted virtually, using the WebEx platform. 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.

During FY 2021, NACIQI reviewed the following types of applications:

- Seventeen applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies; and
- One review of an agency's recognition during the period of recognition, which included

a compliance report and a monitoring report.

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

In FY 2021, the Committee heard thirty (30) oral comments from public participants and presentations from two of the current Administration's political appointees: the Acting Under Secretary and the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education. A staff member from the Department's Office of the General Counsel conducted an annual ethics training for the Committee members, and a staff member from the Department's Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development presented an overview of the accreditor dashboards.

The NACIQI reinstated the use of the Department's accreditor dashboards, formed an Accreditor Dashboards Subcommittee, and voted to submit the Student Success Subcommittee's report to the Secretary for review and consideration.

The Committee participated in a general policy discussion that resulted in a request for (1) more applicable training for members and (2) a continuation of efforts to make documents used for recognizing accrediting agencies more transparent for public review.

A summary of the NACIQI'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**

- March 3-5, 2021                      Virtual using the WebEx Platform
- July 27-29, 2021                     Virtual using the WebEx Platform

## **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.

Two lists of NACIQI members (one for each meeting conducted), including the nominating source for each member, for fiscal year 2021 are attached (see Attachments G and H).

#### **IV. Committee Functions**

NACIQI was established by Section 114 of the HEA. 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 HEA Title IV, 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; and
  - 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.

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