

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD



## Accreditation Levels and Status Policy

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# 1. Preamble

- 1.1. The International Education Board, hereinafter referred to as IEB, is an independent, private, non-governmental, and non-statutory international education authority committed to quality assurance, accreditation, and standards development across diverse education and training sectors worldwide.
  - 1.2. IEB operates as a voluntary quality recognition and benchmarking organization, supporting educational institutions and training providers through structured evaluation, ethical standards, and continuous improvement frameworks.
  - 1.3. IEB accreditation is a voluntary quality recognition process designed to support institutions in demonstrating their commitment to quality education, continuous improvement, and ethical practice.
  - 1.4. IEB accreditation does not constitute government approval, statutory recognition, degree equivalence, or professional licensure. IEB respects and operates complementary to national and regional regulatory authorities.
  - 1.5. This Accreditation Levels and Status Policy establishes a comprehensive framework defining the various accreditation types, levels, and status categories available through IEB.
  - 1.6. The policy provides clarity on what each accreditation level and status represents, enabling institutions and stakeholders to understand the meaning and value of different IEB recognitions.
  - 1.7. Clear differentiation of accreditation levels supports appropriate recognition of institutional quality while providing developmental pathways for institutions at various stages of their quality journey.
  - 1.8. This policy should be read in conjunction with other IEB policies, including the Accreditation Process Policy, Eligibility Criteria Policy, Accreditation Framework and Standards Policy, and other applicable IEB governance documents.
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## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this policy is to define and explain the various accreditation types, levels, and status categories within the IEB accreditation framework.
  - 2.2. This policy aims to establish clear distinctions between different accreditation categories to ensure accurate understanding by all stakeholders.
  - 2.3. This policy provides guidance on the criteria and characteristics associated with each accreditation level and status.
  - 2.4. This policy establishes the framework for progression between accreditation levels and status transitions.
  - 2.5. This policy ensures transparency regarding what each accreditation status represents and how it may be used.
  - 2.6. This policy supports consistency in the application and communication of accreditation status decisions.
  - 2.7. This policy protects the integrity of IEB accreditation by clearly defining the meaning of each status category.
  - 2.8. This policy provides clarity on accreditation cycle durations and renewal expectations for each level.
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## 3. Scope

### 3.1. Applicability

- 3.1.1. This policy applies to all institutions and education providers holding, seeking, or formerly holding IEB accreditation.
- 3.1.2. This policy applies to all IEB personnel involved in accreditation decisions and communications.
- 3.1.3. This policy applies to all accreditation types offered by IEB, including institutional and program accreditation.
- 3.1.4. This policy applies to all sectors within IEB's accreditation scope.
- 3.1.5. This policy governs the classification and communication of all accreditation status determinations.

### 3.2. Types of Accreditation Covered

- 3.2.1. This policy covers institutional accreditation, where the entire institution is evaluated.
- 3.2.2. This policy covers program accreditation, where specific programs or courses are evaluated.
- 3.2.3. This policy covers specialized accreditation for specific functions or areas.
- 3.2.4. This policy covers all pre-accreditation status categories including candidacy.
- 3.2.5. This policy covers all active, inactive, and historical accreditation statuses.

### 3.3. Sectors Covered

- 3.3.1. This policy applies to higher education institutions.
- 3.3.2. This policy applies to schools and pre-university education providers.
- 3.3.3. This policy applies to vocational and professional training providers.
- 3.3.4. This policy applies to online and distance learning providers.
- 3.3.5. This policy applies to continuing professional development providers.
- 3.3.6. This policy applies to healthcare, dental, and clinical education providers.
- 3.3.7. This policy applies to non-traditional and alternative education providers.
- 3.3.8. This policy applies to any other institution within IEB's accreditation scope.

## 4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Accreditation Type** means the category of accreditation sought, such as institutional accreditation or program accreditation.
- 4.2. **Accreditation Level** means the tier or grade of accreditation within a type, reflecting the degree of quality demonstrated.
- 4.3. **Accreditation Status** means the current standing of an institution or program within the IEB accreditation framework.
- 4.4. **Candidacy Status** means a formal pre-accreditation recognition indicating an institution is actively working toward accreditation.
- 4.5. **Provisional Accreditation** means a time-limited accreditation for institutions meeting most but not all requirements, with conditions for progression.
- 4.6. **Full Accreditation** means unrestricted accreditation confirming an institution or program meets all IEB standards.
- 4.7. **Accreditation with Distinction** means the highest level of accreditation recognizing exceptional quality and achievement.
- 4.8. **Conditional Accreditation** means accreditation granted subject to specific conditions that must be satisfied within defined timeframes.
- 4.9. **Suspended Accreditation** means temporary removal of accreditation privileges pending resolution of identified concerns.
- 4.10. **Withdrawn Accreditation** means permanent removal of accreditation due to failure to meet or maintain standards.
- 4.11. **Lapsed Accreditation** means accreditation that has expired due to failure to renew within the required timeframe.
- 4.12. **Voluntary Relinquishment** means an institution's formal decision to give up its accreditation status.
- 4.13. **Accreditation Cycle** means the period for which accreditation is valid before renewal is required.
- 4.14. **Accreditation Scope** means the specific programs, locations, or activities covered by the accreditation.
- 4.15. **Status Transition** means a change from one accreditation status to another.
- 4.16. **Good Standing** means an accreditation status that is current, unrestricted, and without pending adverse actions.

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## 5. Guiding Principles

The accreditation levels and status framework is governed by the following principles:

### **5.1. Clarity**

- 5.1.1. Each accreditation level and status has a clear and distinct meaning.
- 5.1.2. The criteria for each level are transparent and well-defined.
- 5.1.3. Status categories are mutually exclusive and unambiguous.
- 5.1.4. Stakeholders can readily understand what each status represents.

### **5.2. Differentiation**

- 5.2.1. Different levels recognize different degrees of quality achievement.
- 5.2.2. The framework accommodates institutions at various stages of development.
- 5.2.3. Higher levels require demonstration of higher quality standards.
- 5.2.4. Differentiation supports meaningful recognition and appropriate expectations.

### **5.3. Progression**

- 5.3.1. The framework supports developmental progression through levels.
- 5.3.2. Clear pathways exist from candidacy to full accreditation.
- 5.3.3. Institutions can aspire to and work toward higher levels.
- 5.3.4. Progression is based on demonstrated improvement and achievement.

### **5.4. Integrity**

- 5.4.1. Each status accurately reflects the institution's demonstrated quality.
- 5.4.2. Status decisions are based on rigorous, evidence-based evaluation.
- 5.4.3. The framework protects against misrepresentation of status.
- 5.4.4. Status categories maintain their meaning and value over time.

### **5.5. Transparency**

- 5.5.1. Accreditation status is publicly verifiable for accredited institutions.

- 5.5.2. The meaning of each status is publicly documented.
- 5.5.3. Status changes are communicated appropriately.
- 5.5.4. Stakeholders have access to accurate status information.

## **5.6. Fairness**

- 5.6.1. Status criteria are applied consistently across all institutions.
  - 5.6.2. Similar institutions demonstrating similar quality receive similar status.
  - 5.6.3. Status decisions are made through fair, impartial processes.
  - 5.6.4. Appeal mechanisms exist for adverse status decisions.
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# 6. Accreditation Types

## 6.1. Overview of Accreditation Types

6.1.1. IEB offers multiple types of accreditation to address different institutional needs.

6.1.2. The primary types are institutional accreditation and program accreditation.

6.1.3. Specialized accreditation may be available for specific functions or areas.

6.1.4. Institutions may hold one or more types of accreditation simultaneously.

## 6.2. Institutional Accreditation

6.2.1. Institutional accreditation evaluates the entire institution as a whole.

6.2.2. The evaluation covers governance, leadership, quality systems, resources, and overall educational effectiveness.

6.2.3. Institutional accreditation confirms that the institution has appropriate foundations for quality education across all its operations.

6.2.4. Institutional accreditation does not constitute endorsement of every individual program offered.

6.2.5. Institutional accreditation is appropriate for institutions seeking recognition of their overall quality framework.

## 6.3. Program Accreditation

6.3.1. Program accreditation evaluates specific educational programs, courses, or qualifications.

6.3.2. The evaluation focuses on program design, delivery, assessment, outcomes, and resources specific to the program.

6.3.3. Program accreditation confirms that the specific program meets IEB standards for quality.

6.3.4. An institution may have some programs accredited while others are not.

6.3.5. Program accreditation may be sought independently of or in addition to institutional accreditation.

6.3.6. Program accreditation is appropriate for institutions seeking recognition of specific programs or for stakeholders interested in particular program quality.

## 6.4. Specialized Accreditation

6.4.1. Specialized accreditation may be offered for specific institutional functions, units, or areas.

6.4.2. Examples include accreditation of specific departments, delivery modes, or support services.

6.4.3. Specialized accreditation criteria are tailored to the specific area being evaluated.

6.4.4. Availability of specialized accreditation depends on IEB's current accreditation offerings.

6.4.5. Institutions interested in specialized accreditation should consult IEB for current options.

## **6.5. Relationship Between Types**

6.5.1. Institutional and program accreditation are complementary but independent.

6.5.2. Institutional accreditation is not a prerequisite for program accreditation.

6.5.3. Program accreditation does not automatically confer institutional accreditation.

6.5.4. Institutions may pursue multiple types of accreditation based on their goals and stakeholder needs.

6.5.5. The scope of each accreditation is clearly specified in accreditation documentation.

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# 7. Institutional Accreditation Levels

## 7.1. Overview

- 7.1.1. Institutional accreditation is available at multiple levels reflecting different degrees of quality achievement.
- 7.1.2. The levels provide differentiated recognition and developmental pathways.
- 7.1.3. All levels require meeting threshold standards, with higher levels requiring demonstration of enhanced quality.
- 7.1.4. The levels are Candidacy, Provisional Accreditation, Full Accreditation, and Accreditation with Distinction.

## 7.2. Level 1: Candidacy Status

- 7.2.1. Candidacy is a pre-accreditation status for institutions working toward accreditation.
- 7.2.2. Candidacy indicates commitment to IEB accreditation but does not constitute accreditation.
- 7.2.3. Candidacy is appropriate for new or developing institutions not yet meeting full eligibility requirements.
- 7.2.4. Candidacy provides a structured framework for institutional development toward accreditation.
- 7.2.5. Detailed provisions for candidacy are set out in Section 9 of this policy.

## 7.3. Level 2: Provisional Accreditation

- 7.3.1. Provisional accreditation is a time-limited accreditation for institutions meeting most standards.
- 7.3.2. Provisional status indicates substantial quality achievement with specific areas requiring further development.
- 7.3.3. Provisional accreditation is subject to conditions and progression requirements.
- 7.3.4. Provisional accreditation is a stepping stone toward full accreditation.
- 7.3.5. Detailed provisions for provisional accreditation are set out in Section 10 of this policy.

## 7.4. Level 3: Full Accreditation

- 7.4.1. Full accreditation indicates that the institution meets all IEB standards.
- 7.4.2. Full accreditation is the primary accreditation level sought by most institutions.

7.4.3. Full accreditation confirms comprehensive quality across all evaluated areas.

7.4.4. Full accreditation may be granted with or without recommendations.

7.4.5. Detailed provisions for full accreditation are set out in Section 11 of this policy.

### **7.5. Level 4: Accreditation with Distinction**

7.5.1. Accreditation with Distinction is the highest level of IEB accreditation.

7.5.2. This level recognizes exceptional quality achievement exceeding standard requirements.

7.5.3. Accreditation with Distinction is reserved for institutions demonstrating outstanding performance.

7.5.4. This level is awarded selectively to institutions that exemplify best practice.

7.5.5. Detailed provisions for Accreditation with Distinction are set out in Section 12 of this policy.

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# 8. Program Accreditation Levels

## 8.1. Overview

- 8.1.1. Program accreditation levels parallel institutional accreditation levels with program-specific criteria.
- 8.1.2. Programs are evaluated against standards appropriate to their level, discipline, and delivery mode.
- 8.1.3. The levels provide differentiated recognition of program quality.

8.1.4. The levels are Provisional Program Accreditation, Full Program Accreditation, and Program Accreditation with Distinction.

## 8.2. Provisional Program Accreditation

- 8.2.1. Provisional program accreditation is available for programs meeting most but not all standards.
- 8.2.2. Provisional status is time-limited and subject to conditions for progression.
- 8.2.3. Provisional program accreditation may be appropriate for new programs or programs undergoing significant development.
- 8.2.4. Programs must progress to full accreditation or accreditation is withdrawn.
- 8.2.5. The provisional period typically does not exceed two years.

## 8.3. Full Program Accreditation

- 8.3.1. Full program accreditation indicates the program meets all applicable IEB standards.
- 8.3.2. Full program accreditation is the standard level for programs demonstrating comprehensive quality.
- 8.3.3. Full program accreditation confirms quality in program design, delivery, assessment, and outcomes.
- 8.3.4. Full program accreditation may be granted with recommendations for enhancement.
- 8.3.5. The accreditation cycle for full program accreditation is typically three to five years.

## 8.4. Program Accreditation with Distinction

- 8.4.1. Program Accreditation with Distinction recognizes exceptional program quality.
- 8.4.2. This level is awarded to programs demonstrating outstanding achievement exceeding standard requirements.

8.4.3. Programs must demonstrate exemplary practice in multiple areas to achieve this level.

8.4.4. Program Accreditation with Distinction is awarded selectively based on rigorous evaluation.

8.4.5. This level brings enhanced recognition and may carry additional benefits.

## **8.5. Program Candidacy**

8.5.1. Programs in development may be considered for program candidacy status.

8.5.2. Program candidacy indicates the program is working toward accreditation.

8.5.3. Program candidacy does not constitute program accreditation.

8.5.4. Program candidacy may be appropriate for programs that have not yet completed a full delivery cycle.

8.5.5. Candidacy programs are expected to progress to provisional or full accreditation within defined timeframes.

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# 9. Candidacy Status

## 9.1. Nature of Candidacy

- 9.1.1. Candidacy is a formal pre-accreditation status within the IEB accreditation framework.
- 9.1.2. Candidacy indicates that an institution has been accepted into a developmental relationship with IEB.
- 9.1.3. Candidacy recognizes institutional commitment to achieving IEB accreditation.
- 9.1.4. Candidacy does not constitute accreditation and must never be represented as accreditation.
- 9.1.5. Candidacy status is publicly acknowledged in a manner distinct from accreditation.

## 9.2. Purpose of Candidacy

- 9.2.1. Candidacy provides a structured pathway for institutions developing toward accreditation.
- 9.2.2. Candidacy enables institutions to benefit from IEB guidance during their quality development journey.
- 9.2.3. Candidacy allows institutions to demonstrate their commitment to external quality assurance.
- 9.2.4. Candidacy helps institutions identify gaps and prioritize improvement activities.
- 9.2.5. Candidacy provides a framework for progress monitoring and milestone achievement.

## 9.3. Eligibility for Candidacy

- 9.3.1. To be eligible for candidacy, an institution must be legally established.
- 9.3.2. The institution must have a clear educational mission and purpose.
- 9.3.3. The institution must be operational or have a credible plan for commencing operations.
- 9.3.4. The institution must demonstrate genuine commitment to achieving IEB accreditation.
- 9.3.5. The institution must have adequate resources to engage meaningfully in candidacy activities.
- 9.3.6. A governance structure must be in place.
- 9.3.7. The institution must be in good standing and operate ethically.
- 9.3.8. Full eligibility criteria are specified in the IEB Eligibility Criteria Policy.

#### **9.4. Candidacy Application**

- 9.4.1. Institutions apply for candidacy through the IEB application process.
- 9.4.2. The application includes documentation demonstrating eligibility for candidacy.
- 9.4.3. The application includes a statement of commitment to IEB accreditation.
- 9.4.4. The application includes a preliminary self-assessment against IEB standards.
- 9.4.5. The application includes a proposed development plan for achieving accreditation.
- 9.4.6. Applicable fees must be paid with the candidacy application.

#### **9.5. Candidacy Evaluation**

- 9.5.1. Candidacy applications are evaluated to confirm eligibility and commitment.
- 9.5.2. The evaluation assesses the institution's potential to achieve accreditation.
- 9.5.3. The evaluation considers the feasibility of the proposed development plan.
- 9.5.4. A preliminary assessment of current status against IEB standards may be conducted.
- 9.5.5. The evaluation may include a site visit or virtual review.

#### **9.6. Candidacy Decision**

- 9.6.1. Candidacy decisions are made by designated IEB authority.
- 9.6.2. Possible outcomes include grant of candidacy, deferral of candidacy pending additional information, and denial of candidacy.
- 9.6.3. Institutions granted candidacy receive a candidacy letter specifying terms and conditions.
- 9.6.4. Institutions denied candidacy receive feedback on reasons and may reapply when concerns are addressed.

#### **9.7. Candidacy Duration**

- 9.7.1. Candidacy is granted for a defined period, typically two years.
- 9.7.2. Candidacy may be extended for up to one additional year in exceptional circumstances.
- 9.7.3. The maximum total candidacy period is three years.
- 9.7.4. Institutions must apply for accreditation or demonstrate substantial progress within the candidacy period.

9.7.5. Failure to progress may result in withdrawal of candidacy.

### **9.8. Candidacy Requirements**

9.8.1. Candidate institutions must submit regular progress reports to IEB.

9.8.2. Progress reports are typically required annually or as specified.

9.8.3. Candidate institutions must implement their development plan.

9.8.4. Candidate institutions must participate in any monitoring or review activities required by IEB.

9.8.5. Candidate institutions must pay applicable candidacy fees.

9.8.6. Candidate institutions must accurately represent their candidacy status.

### **9.9. Candidacy Benefits**

9.9.1. Candidate institutions may publicly acknowledge their candidacy status using approved language.

9.9.2. Candidate institutions receive guidance from IEB on standards and expectations.

9.9.3. Candidate institutions may access IEB resources and support appropriate to candidacy.

9.9.4. Candidacy provides external validation of the institution's quality commitment.

9.9.5. Candidacy prepares institutions for the full accreditation evaluation process.

### **9.10. Transition from Candidacy**

9.10.1. Candidate institutions are expected to apply for accreditation before candidacy expires.

9.10.2. Successful accreditation application results in transition to provisional or full accreditation.

9.10.3. If accreditation is not achieved, candidacy may be extended, withdrawn, or the institution may exit candidacy.

9.10.4. Institutions completing candidacy without achieving accreditation may reapply for candidacy or accreditation in the future.

### **9.11. Candidacy Withdrawal**

9.11.1. Candidacy may be withdrawn if the institution fails to meet candidacy requirements.

9.11.2. Candidacy may be withdrawn if the institution fails to make adequate progress.

9.11.3. Candidacy may be withdrawn if the institution no longer meets eligibility criteria.

9.11.4. Candidacy may be withdrawn if the institution engages in misrepresentation or unethical conduct.

9.11.5. Before withdrawal, the institution is notified of concerns and given opportunity to respond.

9.11.6. Withdrawal decisions may be appealed according to IEB appeal procedures.

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# 10. Provisional Accreditation

## 10.1. Nature of Provisional Accreditation

- 10.1.1. Provisional accreditation is a time-limited accreditation status within the IEB framework.
- 10.1.2. Provisional accreditation indicates that an institution substantially meets IEB standards but has specific areas requiring further development.
- 10.1.3. Provisional accreditation is a form of accreditation, distinct from candidacy which is pre-accreditation.
- 10.1.4. Provisional accreditation carries accreditation privileges subject to conditions and timeframes.
- 10.1.5. Provisional accreditation is designed as a transitional status toward full accreditation.

## 10.2. Purpose of Provisional Accreditation

- 10.2.1. Provisional accreditation recognizes substantial quality achievement while acknowledging areas for improvement.
- 10.2.2. Provisional accreditation enables institutions to hold accredited status while completing development.
- 10.2.3. Provisional accreditation provides a framework for focused improvement in identified areas.
- 10.2.4. Provisional accreditation supports developmental progression without compromising standards.
- 10.2.5. Provisional accreditation enables appropriate recognition for institutions at a transitional stage.

## 10.3. Criteria for Provisional Accreditation

- 10.3.1. Provisional accreditation may be granted when an institution meets most IEB standards satisfactorily.
- 10.3.2. The institution must meet all critical or essential standards.
- 10.3.3. Areas not fully meeting standards must be limited in number and scope.
- 10.3.4. The gaps identified must be addressable within the provisional period.
- 10.3.5. The institution must demonstrate capacity and commitment to address identified gaps.

10.3.6. No fundamental barriers to achieving full accreditation should exist.

#### **10.4. Conditions of Provisional Accreditation**

10.4.1. Provisional accreditation is granted with specific conditions that must be met.

10.4.2. Conditions specify the areas requiring improvement.

10.4.3. Conditions specify the actions or outcomes required.

10.4.4. Conditions specify the timeframe for completion.

10.4.5. Conditions are documented in the accreditation decision letter.

10.4.6. The institution must formally accept the conditions.

#### **10.5. Provisional Period Duration**

10.5.1. The standard provisional accreditation period is two years.

10.5.2. A shorter period may be specified if conditions can be met sooner.

10.5.3. Extension of the provisional period may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

10.5.4. The maximum provisional period including any extension is three years.

10.5.5. Institutions must achieve full accreditation within the provisional period or face status consequences.

#### **10.6. Requirements During Provisional Period**

10.6.1. Provisionally accredited institutions must actively work to address conditions.

10.6.2. Progress reports on condition fulfillment are required at intervals specified by IEB.

10.6.3. The institution must cooperate with any monitoring or review activities.

10.6.4. The institution must maintain compliance with all standards already met.

10.6.5. The institution must pay all applicable fees.

10.6.6. The institution must accurately represent its provisional status.

#### **10.7. Provisional Status Review**

10.7.1. Before the end of the provisional period, a review is conducted to assess progress.

10.7.2. The review evaluates whether conditions have been satisfactorily met.

10.7.3. The review considers the institution's overall status against IEB standards.

10.7.4. The review may include desk assessment, virtual review, or site visit as appropriate.

10.7.5. The review findings inform the decision on status following the provisional period.

### **10.8. Outcomes Following Provisional Period**

10.8.1. If conditions are met and standards are satisfied, the institution progresses to full accreditation.

10.8.2. If substantial progress has been made but additional time is needed, the provisional period may be extended.

10.8.3. If conditions are not adequately addressed, provisional accreditation may be withdrawn.

10.8.4. The decision is communicated to the institution with clear rationale.

10.8.5. Adverse decisions may be appealed according to IEB appeal procedures.

### **10.9. Provisional Accreditation Privileges**

10.9.1. Provisionally accredited institutions may identify themselves as IEB accredited with provisional status.

10.9.2. Provisionally accredited institutions may use the IEB accreditation mark with provisional designation.

10.9.3. Provisionally accredited institutions are listed in the IEB directory with provisional status indicated.

10.9.4. Provisional accreditation may carry certain limitations as specified by IEB.

10.9.5. The institution must accurately represent its provisional status in all communications.

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# 11. Full Accreditation

## 11.1. Nature of Full Accreditation

- 11.1.1. Full accreditation is the primary accreditation status within the IEB framework.
- 11.1.2. Full accreditation indicates that an institution or program meets all applicable IEB standards.
- 11.1.3. Full accreditation represents comprehensive quality across all evaluated areas.
- 11.1.4. Full accreditation is granted for a defined cycle period subject to ongoing compliance and renewal.
- 11.1.5. Full accreditation is the standard to which all accreditation applicants aspire.

## 11.2. Criteria for Full Accreditation

- 11.2.1. Full accreditation requires meeting all IEB standards at a satisfactory level or above.
- 11.2.2. No significant deficiencies or gaps in standards compliance may exist.
- 11.2.3. The institution must demonstrate effective quality systems across all areas.
- 11.2.4. The institution must show evidence of educational effectiveness.
- 11.2.5. The institution must demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement.
- 11.2.6. The institution must maintain ethical practices and good governance.

## 11.3. Full Accreditation Decision

- 11.3.1. Full accreditation decisions are made by the IEB Accreditation Committee.
- 11.3.2. Decisions are based on comprehensive evaluation findings and Review Panel recommendations.
- 11.3.3. The decision considers all evidence presented and the totality of institutional quality.
- 11.3.4. The decision is documented with clear rationale.
- 11.3.5. The institution is notified of the decision in writing.

## 11.4. Full Accreditation with Recommendations

- 11.4.1. Full accreditation may be granted with recommendations for enhancement.
- 11.4.2. Recommendations identify areas where improvement is encouraged but not required for accreditation.

11.4.3. Recommendations do not constitute conditions and do not affect accreditation status.

11.4.4. Institutions are encouraged to address recommendations and report on progress.

11.4.5. Attention to recommendations may be considered during renewal evaluation.

### **11.5. Full Accreditation Cycle**

11.5.1. Full accreditation is granted for a cycle period of five years for institutional accreditation.

11.5.2. Full accreditation is granted for a cycle period of three to five years for program accreditation, depending on sector and program type.

11.5.3. The cycle period is specified in the accreditation decision.

11.5.4. Renewal must be sought before the cycle expires to maintain continuous accreditation.

11.5.5. Shorter cycle periods may be specified in particular circumstances.

### **11.6. Full Accreditation Privileges**

11.6.1. Fully accredited institutions may identify themselves as IEB accredited.

11.6.2. Fully accredited institutions may use the IEB accreditation mark without restriction, subject to logo use policies.

11.6.3. Fully accredited institutions are listed in the IEB Accredited Institutions Directory.

11.6.4. Fully accredited institutions receive an accreditation certificate.

11.6.5. Fully accredited institutions may reference their accreditation in promotional materials.

11.6.6. All use of accreditation status must be accurate and in accordance with IEB policies.

### **11.7. Ongoing Requirements**

11.7.1. Fully accredited institutions must maintain compliance with IEB standards throughout the cycle.

11.7.2. Annual monitoring reports must be submitted as required.

11.7.3. Significant changes must be notified to IEB.

11.7.4. Annual maintenance fees must be paid.

11.7.5. Cooperation with any mid-cycle review activities is required.

11.7.6. Compliance with all IEB policies is required.

11.7.7. Detailed post-accreditation requirements are specified in the Accreditation Validity, Monitoring, and Review Policy.

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# 12. Accreditation with Distinction

## 12.1. Nature of Accreditation with Distinction

- 12.1.1. Accreditation with Distinction is the highest level of recognition within the IEB accreditation framework.
- 12.1.2. This level is reserved for institutions or programs demonstrating exceptional quality exceeding standard requirements.
- 12.1.3. Accreditation with Distinction recognizes outstanding achievement and exemplary practice.
- 12.1.4. This level is awarded selectively and represents the highest standard of quality.
- 12.1.5. Accreditation with Distinction carries enhanced recognition and prestige.

## 12.2. Criteria for Accreditation with Distinction

- 12.2.1. All IEB standards must be met at an exemplary level.
- 12.2.2. The institution or program must demonstrate outstanding performance in multiple areas.
- 12.2.3. Evidence of innovation, best practice, or exceptional outcomes must be present.
- 12.2.4. A strong culture of continuous improvement and quality enhancement must be demonstrated.
- 12.2.5. The institution or program must serve as a model of quality in its sector.
- 12.2.6. Stakeholder satisfaction and outcomes must be exceptional.

## 12.3. Areas of Excellence

- 12.3.1. Excellence may be demonstrated in educational effectiveness and learner outcomes.
- 12.3.2. Excellence may be demonstrated in innovative teaching and learning practices.
- 12.3.3. Excellence may be demonstrated in governance and leadership.
- 12.3.4. Excellence may be demonstrated in quality assurance and improvement systems.
- 12.3.5. Excellence may be demonstrated in stakeholder engagement and responsiveness.
- 12.3.6. Excellence may be demonstrated in resource management and sustainability.
- 12.3.7. Excellence may be demonstrated in research, scholarship, or professional contribution.

12.3.8. Excellence may be demonstrated in social responsibility and community impact.

#### **12.4. Assessment for Distinction**

12.4.1. Assessment for Accreditation with Distinction is part of the standard evaluation process.

12.4.2. Review Panels identify institutions or programs that may merit consideration for Distinction.

12.4.3. Additional evidence of excellence may be requested.

12.4.4. The Accreditation Committee considers Distinction recommendations carefully.

12.4.5. Distinction is awarded only when evidence clearly supports exceptional quality.

12.4.6. Distinction is not automatically granted to institutions meeting all standards.

#### **12.5. Application for Distinction**

12.5.1. Institutions may request consideration for Accreditation with Distinction in their application.

12.5.2. The request should be supported by evidence of exceptional quality.

12.5.3. The request does not guarantee that Distinction will be awarded.

12.5.4. Institutions not receiving Distinction may still receive full accreditation.

12.5.5. Review Panels may recommend Distinction even without specific application.

#### **12.6. Distinction Decision**

12.6.1. Distinction decisions are made by the IEB Accreditation Committee.

12.6.2. Decisions require clear evidence of exceptional quality beyond standard requirements.

12.6.3. Decisions are documented with specific rationale identifying areas of excellence.

12.6.4. The decision is communicated to the institution with the accreditation outcome.

12.6.5. Not receiving Distinction is not a negative outcome and does not constitute criticism.

#### **12.7. Distinction Benefits**

12.7.1. Institutions with Distinction may identify themselves with this enhanced recognition.

12.7.2. Institutions with Distinction may use the IEB accreditation mark with Distinction designation.

12.7.3. Institutions with Distinction are identified in the IEB directory with Distinction status.

12.7.4. Institutions with Distinction receive a certificate reflecting this status.

12.7.5. Institutions with Distinction may be featured in IEB communications and publications.

12.7.6. Institutions with Distinction may receive extended accreditation cycle periods.

## **12.8. Maintaining Distinction**

12.8.1. Distinction status is subject to ongoing maintenance of exceptional quality.

12.8.2. Annual monitoring applies to institutions with Distinction.

12.8.3. Distinction status is reviewed at renewal.

12.8.4. If quality falls below Distinction level, the institution may be reclassified to full accreditation.

12.8.5. Reclassification is not punitive but reflects current quality assessment.

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# 13. Conditional Accreditation

## 13.1. Nature of Conditional Accreditation

13.1.1. Conditional accreditation refers to accreditation granted subject to specific conditions.

13.1.2. Conditions may be attached to provisional or full accreditation.

13.1.3. Conditions specify requirements that must be met within defined timeframes.

13.1.4. Conditional accreditation is a form of accreditation, not a denial or deferral.

13.1.5. Failure to meet conditions may result in status change or withdrawal.

## 13.2. Circumstances for Conditions

13.2.1. Conditions may be imposed when specific areas require improvement but overall quality supports accreditation.

13.2.2. Conditions may address gaps identified during evaluation.

13.2.3. Conditions may require implementation of specific improvements.

13.2.4. Conditions may require submission of additional evidence.

13.2.5. Conditions may require follow-up review to verify compliance.

## 13.3. Types of Conditions

13.3.1. Documentary conditions require submission of specified documentation.

13.3.2. Implementation conditions require implementation of specific changes or improvements.

13.3.3. Outcome conditions require demonstration of specified outcomes.

13.3.4. Review conditions require participation in follow-up review activities.

13.3.5. Multiple conditions may be imposed simultaneously.

## 13.4. Condition Specifications

13.4.1. Each condition is clearly specified in the accreditation decision.

13.4.2. The condition statement identifies what is required.

13.4.3. The condition includes a timeframe for completion.

13.4.4. The condition specifies how fulfillment will be assessed.

13.4.5. Conditions are proportionate to the concerns they address.

### **13.5. Condition Timeframes**

13.5.1. Condition timeframes are specified based on the nature and complexity of requirements.

13.5.2. Standard condition timeframes range from three months to eighteen months.

13.5.3. Extension of timeframes may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

13.5.4. Institutions should request extensions before the original deadline if needed.

13.5.5. Repeated extensions are generally not granted.

### **13.6. Condition Fulfillment**

13.6.1. Institutions must submit evidence of condition fulfillment by the specified deadline.

13.6.2. Evidence is reviewed by designated IEB assessors.

13.6.3. The institution is notified whether the condition is deemed satisfied.

13.6.4. If the condition is satisfied, the accreditation continues without the condition.

13.6.5. If the condition is not satisfied, additional evidence may be requested or further action taken.

### **13.7. Failure to Meet Conditions**

13.7.1. Failure to meet conditions within the specified timeframe is a serious matter.

13.7.2. IEB may extend the deadline if justified by circumstances and progress.

13.7.3. IEB may require additional review or site visit.

13.7.4. Persistent failure to meet conditions may result in accreditation status change.

13.7.5. Failure to meet conditions may result in withdrawal of accreditation.

13.7.6. The institution is given opportunity to respond before adverse action is taken.

### **13.8. Status During Conditional Period**

13.8.1. Institutions with conditional accreditation remain accredited during the condition period.

13.8.2. Accreditation privileges continue unless specifically restricted.

13.8.3. The institution must accurately represent its status including disclosure of conditional status if required.

13.8.4. Third parties verifying accreditation may be informed of conditional status.

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# 14. Accreditation Denial

## 14.1. Nature of Denial

- 14.1.1. Accreditation denial means the decision not to grant accreditation following evaluation.
- 14.1.2. Denial indicates that the institution or program does not meet IEB standards sufficiently for accreditation.
- 14.1.3. Denial is an outcome of the accreditation evaluation process, not a punitive action.
- 14.1.4. Denial does not permanently preclude future accreditation; institutions may reapply after addressing deficiencies.
- 14.1.5. Denial is communicated with detailed feedback to support institutional improvement.

## 14.2. Grounds for Denial

- 14.2.1. Accreditation may be denied when the institution fails to meet a significant number of IEB standards.
- 14.2.2. Accreditation may be denied when critical or essential standards are not met.
- 14.2.3. Accreditation may be denied when fundamental deficiencies in quality systems are identified.
- 14.2.4. Accreditation may be denied when evidence presented is insufficient to demonstrate standards compliance.
- 14.2.5. Accreditation may be denied when the institution lacks capacity to address deficiencies within a reasonable timeframe.
- 14.2.6. Accreditation may be denied when ethical or integrity concerns are identified.

## 14.3. Denial Decision Process

- 14.3.1. Denial decisions are made by the IEB Accreditation Committee.
- 14.3.2. Decisions are based on comprehensive evaluation findings and Review Panel recommendations.
- 14.3.3. The institution is given the opportunity to respond to preliminary adverse findings before final decision.
- 14.3.4. The Accreditation Committee considers all evidence and responses in reaching its decision.
- 14.3.5. The decision is documented with clear rationale.

#### **14.4. Notification of Denial**

- 14.4.1. The institution is notified of denial in writing.
- 14.4.2. The notification includes the specific grounds for denial.
- 14.4.3. The notification identifies standards not met and deficiencies found.
- 14.4.4. The notification provides constructive feedback to support future improvement.
- 14.4.5. The notification informs the institution of appeal rights and procedures.

#### **14.5. Appeal of Denial**

- 14.5.1. Institutions may appeal denial decisions according to IEB appeal procedures.
- 14.5.2. Appeals must be submitted within the timeframe specified in the denial notification.
- 14.5.3. Appeals are heard by the IEB Appeals Panel.
- 14.5.4. Valid grounds for appeal include procedural irregularity, bias, or failure to consider material evidence.
- 14.5.5. Disagreement with evaluator judgment is not generally grounds for successful appeal.
- 14.5.6. Appeal procedures are detailed in the IEB Complaints, Appeals, and Grievance Policy.

#### **14.6. Reapplication After Denial**

- 14.6.1. Institutions denied accreditation may reapply once deficiencies have been addressed.
- 14.6.2. A waiting period of at least twelve months is required before reapplication.
- 14.6.3. The waiting period allows time for meaningful improvement.
- 14.6.4. Reapplication requires a new application and payment of applicable fees.
- 14.6.5. The reapplication should demonstrate how previously identified deficiencies have been addressed.
- 14.6.6. Reapplication is evaluated on its own merits, though previous denial is noted.

#### **14.7. Confidentiality of Denial**

- 14.7.1. Accreditation denial is not publicly disclosed by IEB.
- 14.7.2. The institution's application and evaluation remain confidential.

14.7.3. IEB does not confirm or deny whether a specific institution has applied or been denied.

14.7.4. Exceptions apply only where required by law or to protect public interest in serious cases.

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# 15. Suspended Accreditation

## 15.1. Nature of Suspension

- 15.1.1. Suspended accreditation is a temporary removal of accreditation privileges pending resolution of concerns.
- 15.1.2. Suspension is a serious status indicating significant issues requiring urgent attention.
- 15.1.3. Suspension is intended as a corrective measure to allow institutions opportunity to address concerns.
- 15.1.4. Suspension is not permanent but may lead to withdrawal if concerns are not resolved.
- 15.1.5. Suspended institutions must cease using accreditation privileges during suspension.

## 15.2. Grounds for Suspension

- 15.2.1. Suspension may be imposed when an accredited institution is found to no longer meet critical standards.
- 15.2.2. Suspension may be imposed when serious quality or ethical concerns are identified.
- 15.2.3. Suspension may be imposed for failure to meet conditions within specified timeframes.
- 15.2.4. Suspension may be imposed for failure to submit required monitoring reports.
- 15.2.5. Suspension may be imposed for failure to pay required fees despite notice.
- 15.2.6. Suspension may be imposed for misrepresentation of accreditation status.
- 15.2.7. Suspension may be imposed for failure to cooperate with monitoring or review activities.
- 15.2.8. Suspension may be imposed when the institution's legal status is compromised.
- 15.2.9. Suspension may be imposed for serious complaints found to be substantiated.

## 15.3. Suspension Process

- 15.3.1. Before suspension is imposed, the institution is notified of the concerns in writing.
- 15.3.2. The institution is given opportunity to respond to concerns within a specified timeframe.
- 15.3.3. The response is considered before a suspension decision is made.

15.3.4. In urgent cases involving immediate risk, suspension may be imposed immediately with opportunity to respond afterward.

15.3.5. Suspension decisions are made by designated IEB authority.

15.3.6. The institution is notified of suspension in writing with reasons and requirements for reinstatement.

#### **15.4. Duration of Suspension**

15.4.1. Suspension is imposed for a defined period, typically three to twelve months.

15.4.2. The duration depends on the nature and severity of concerns and time needed to address them.

15.4.3. Suspension may be lifted earlier if concerns are resolved.

15.4.4. Suspension may be extended if progress is insufficient.

15.4.5. Maximum suspension period is typically eighteen months before a decision on withdrawal must be made.

#### **15.5. Requirements During Suspension**

15.5.1. Suspended institutions must immediately cease representing themselves as accredited.

15.5.2. Use of the IEB accreditation mark must cease.

15.5.3. The institution must inform relevant stakeholders of its suspended status.

15.5.4. The institution must actively work to address the concerns that led to suspension.

15.5.5. The institution must cooperate with any review or monitoring required by IEB.

15.5.6. The institution must submit reports on progress as required.

15.5.7. Fee obligations may continue during suspension as specified.

#### **15.6. Public Disclosure of Suspension**

15.6.1. Suspension status is disclosed in the IEB Accredited Institutions Directory.

15.6.2. The institution's listing indicates suspended status.

15.6.3. Suspension disclosure protects stakeholders and public interest.

15.6.4. The institution may not conceal its suspended status from stakeholders.

#### **15.7. Reinstatement from Suspension**

- 15.7.1. Suspended institutions may be reinstated when concerns are adequately addressed.
- 15.7.2. Reinstatement requires demonstration that issues have been resolved.
- 15.7.3. A reinstatement review may be conducted to verify resolution.
- 15.7.4. The reinstatement decision is made by designated IEB authority.
- 15.7.5. Upon reinstatement, full accreditation privileges are restored.
- 15.7.6. Reinstatement may include conditions for ongoing monitoring.
- 15.7.7. The institution's listing is updated to reflect reinstated status.

#### **15.8. Transition to Withdrawal**

- 15.8.1. If suspension concerns are not adequately addressed, accreditation may be withdrawn.
  - 15.8.2. The institution is notified before withdrawal and given final opportunity to respond.
  - 15.8.3. Withdrawal following suspension is subject to appeal rights.
  - 15.8.4. Withdrawal procedures are specified in Section 16 of this policy.
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# 16. Withdrawn Accreditation

## 16.1. Nature of Withdrawal

- 16.1.1. Withdrawn accreditation means permanent removal of accreditation status.
- 16.1.2. Withdrawal is the most serious adverse action in the accreditation framework.
- 16.1.3. Withdrawal indicates that the institution no longer meets standards and has not remedied deficiencies.
- 16.1.4. Withdrawal terminates all accreditation privileges.
- 16.1.5. Withdrawal is publicly disclosed.

## 16.2. Grounds for Withdrawal

- 16.2.1. Withdrawal may occur when an institution fails to address concerns during suspension.
- 16.2.2. Withdrawal may occur when fundamental and persistent non-compliance with standards is demonstrated.
- 16.2.3. Withdrawal may occur when serious ethical violations or fraud are established.
- 16.2.4. Withdrawal may occur when the institution ceases operations.
- 16.2.5. Withdrawal may occur when the institution's legal status is permanently compromised.
- 16.2.6. Withdrawal may occur when the institution persistently fails to meet conditions.
- 16.2.7. Withdrawal may occur when the institution persistently fails to cooperate with IEB requirements.
- 16.2.8. Withdrawal may occur when the institution engages in serious misrepresentation.

## 16.3. Withdrawal Process

- 16.3.1. Withdrawal is not imposed without due process.
- 16.3.2. The institution is notified in writing of the intention to withdraw accreditation.
- 16.3.3. The notification specifies the grounds for proposed withdrawal.
- 16.3.4. The institution is given opportunity to respond within a specified timeframe.
- 16.3.5. The response is considered before a final decision is made.

16.3.6. The withdrawal decision is made by the IEB Accreditation Committee or Governing Board.

16.3.7. The decision is documented with clear rationale.

16.3.8. The institution is notified of the final decision in writing.

#### **16.4. Effective Date of Withdrawal**

16.4.1. Withdrawal takes effect on the date specified in the withdrawal notice.

16.4.2. A reasonable period may be provided for the institution to notify stakeholders.

16.4.3. In cases of serious misconduct, withdrawal may be immediate.

16.4.4. The effective date considers impact on current learners where relevant.

#### **16.5. Consequences of Withdrawal**

16.5.1. The institution must immediately cease representing itself as IEB accredited.

16.5.2. All use of the IEB accreditation mark must cease.

16.5.3. All references to IEB accreditation must be removed from materials and communications.

16.5.4. The institution must inform stakeholders of its changed status.

16.5.5. The institution is removed from the IEB Accredited Institutions Directory.

16.5.6. Withdrawal history is retained in IEB records.

#### **16.6. Public Disclosure of Withdrawal**

16.6.1. Withdrawal is publicly disclosed by IEB.

16.6.2. Disclosure includes confirmation that accreditation has been withdrawn.

16.6.3. Disclosure may include the effective date and general grounds.

16.6.4. Disclosure serves to protect stakeholders and public interest.

16.6.5. The institution may not conceal its withdrawn status.

#### **16.7. Appeal of Withdrawal**

16.7.1. Withdrawal decisions may be appealed according to IEB appeal procedures.

16.7.2. Appeals must be submitted within thirty days of the withdrawal notification.

16.7.3. Pending appeal, the institution's status is indicated as withdrawn pending appeal.

16.7.4. Appeals are heard by the IEB Appeals Panel.

16.7.5. Appeal procedures are detailed in the IEB Complaints, Appeals, and Grievance Policy.

#### **16.8. Reapplication After Withdrawal**

16.8.1. Institutions whose accreditation has been withdrawn may apply again in the future.

16.8.2. A waiting period of at least three years is required before reapplication.

16.8.3. The waiting period may be longer depending on the grounds for withdrawal.

16.8.4. Reapplication requires demonstration that grounds for withdrawal have been fully addressed.

16.8.5. Reapplications from previously withdrawn institutions are subject to enhanced scrutiny.

16.8.6. Approval of reapplication is not guaranteed regardless of improvements made.

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# 17. Lapsed Accreditation

## 17.1. Nature of Lapsed Accreditation

17.1.1. Lapsed accreditation refers to accreditation that has expired due to failure to renew.

17.1.2. Accreditation lapses when the accreditation cycle ends without renewal being completed.

17.1.3. Lapsed status differs from withdrawal in that it results from inaction rather than adverse findings.

17.1.4. Lapsed accreditation terminates accreditation privileges.

17.1.5. Lapsed institutions must cease representing themselves as accredited.

## 17.2. Causes of Lapsed Accreditation

17.2.1. Accreditation lapses when an institution fails to submit a renewal application.

17.2.2. Accreditation lapses when an institution fails to complete renewal evaluation before the cycle ends.

17.2.3. Accreditation lapses when an institution fails to pay renewal fees.

17.2.4. Accreditation lapses when an institution fails to respond to renewal communications.

17.2.5. Accreditation lapses when an institution deliberately chooses not to renew without formal relinquishment.

## 17.3. Renewal Reminders

17.3.1. IEB provides reminders to institutions approaching the end of their accreditation cycle.

17.3.2. Initial reminder is provided at least twelve months before expiry.

17.3.3. Additional reminders are provided at six months and three months before expiry.

17.3.4. Final notice is provided one month before expiry.

17.3.5. Despite reminders, renewal remains the institution's responsibility.

17.3.6. Failure to receive reminders does not excuse failure to renew.

## 17.4. Grace Period

17.4.1. A limited grace period may be provided after accreditation cycle expiry.

17.4.2. The grace period is typically three months.

- 17.4.3. During the grace period, the institution may complete renewal to avoid lapse.
- 17.4.4. Late fees may apply during the grace period.
- 17.4.5. If renewal is not completed during the grace period, accreditation lapses.
- 17.4.6. Institutions in the active renewal process that extends past expiry may have their status preserved pending completion.

### **17.5. Consequences of Lapsed Accreditation**

- 17.5.1. Upon lapse, the institution must cease representing itself as accredited.
- 17.5.2. Use of the IEB accreditation mark must cease.
- 17.5.3. The institution's listing is updated to reflect lapsed status.
- 17.5.4. Lapsed status is publicly disclosed.
- 17.5.5. The institution must inform stakeholders of its changed status.

### **17.6. Reinstatement from Lapsed Status**

- 17.6.1. Institutions with lapsed accreditation may seek reinstatement within twelve months of lapse.
- 17.6.2. Reinstatement requires completion of renewal evaluation and payment of all outstanding fees including late fees.
- 17.6.3. If reinstated, continuity of accreditation is restored from the original expiry date.
- 17.6.4. After twelve months, reinstatement is not available and a new application is required.
- 17.6.5. Reinstatement is not automatic and depends on meeting renewal requirements.

### **17.7. Reapplication After Lapse**

- 17.7.1. If reinstatement is not achieved, the institution must apply as a new applicant.
  - 17.7.2. No waiting period applies for reapplication after lapse, unlike after withdrawal.
  - 17.7.3. The new application is evaluated according to standard procedures.
  - 17.7.4. Previous accreditation history is noted but does not guarantee approval.
-

# 18. Voluntary Relinquishment

## 18.1. Nature of Voluntary Relinquishment

18.1.1. Voluntary relinquishment is an institution's formal decision to give up its accreditation status.

18.1.2. Relinquishment is a neutral action, not an adverse finding.

18.1.3. Institutions may choose to relinquish for various reasons, including strategic decisions, changes in focus, or cessation of operations.

18.1.4. Relinquishment differs from lapse in that it is an active, formal decision.

18.1.5. Relinquishment provides an orderly process for ending the accreditation relationship.

## 18.2. Process for Relinquishment

18.2.1. Institutions wishing to relinquish accreditation must notify IEB in writing.

18.2.2. The notification should be submitted by an authorized institutional representative.

18.2.3. The notification should specify the effective date requested for relinquishment.

18.2.4. Reasonable notice of at least sixty days is requested.

18.2.5. IEB acknowledges receipt of the relinquishment notification.

## 18.3. Verification Before Relinquishment

18.3.1. Upon receiving relinquishment notification, IEB may verify the request is genuine and authorized.

18.3.2. IEB may confirm there are no pending concerns or obligations.

18.3.3. If concerns exist, IEB may discuss with the institution before accepting relinquishment.

18.3.4. Relinquishment does not absolve an institution of addressing serious concerns already identified.

## 18.4. Effective Date

18.4.1. Relinquishment takes effect on the date agreed between the institution and IEB.

18.4.2. If no date is specified, relinquishment takes effect thirty days after notification.

18.4.3. Earlier effective dates may be accommodated if requested.

18.4.4. The institution must cease using accreditation from the effective date.

### **18.5. Consequences of Relinquishment**

- 18.5.1. Upon relinquishment, the institution must cease representing itself as IEB accredited.
- 18.5.2. Use of the IEB accreditation mark must cease.
- 18.5.3. The institution's listing is removed from the IEB Accredited Institutions Directory.
- 18.5.4. The institution should inform stakeholders of its changed status.
- 18.5.5. Outstanding fee obligations through the effective date remain payable.

### **18.6. Public Disclosure**

- 18.6.1. Voluntary relinquishment may be disclosed upon inquiry.
- 18.6.2. Disclosure indicates that the institution voluntarily ended its accreditation.
- 18.6.3. Disclosure distinguishes relinquishment from withdrawal or denial.
- 18.6.4. The institution may communicate its relinquishment as it deems appropriate.

### **18.7. Reapplication After Relinquishment**

- 18.7.1. Institutions that have relinquished may reapply for accreditation at any time.
- 18.7.2. No waiting period applies for reapplication after voluntary relinquishment.
- 18.7.3. Reapplication is processed according to standard procedures.
- 18.7.4. Previous accreditation history may be considered favorably.

### **18.8. Relinquishment During Investigation**

- 18.8.1. An institution may not relinquish accreditation while under investigation for serious concerns.
  - 18.8.2. If relinquishment is sought during investigation, the investigation outcome is noted in records.
  - 18.8.3. Relinquishment does not prevent completion of pending investigations.
  - 18.8.4. If investigation concludes with adverse findings, the record reflects both relinquishment and findings.
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# 19. Status Transitions and Progression

## 19.1. Overview of Status Transitions

- 19.1.1. Institutions may move between different accreditation statuses during their relationship with IEB.
- 19.1.2. Transitions may be positive, reflecting progression, or negative, reflecting concerns.
- 19.1.3. This section describes typical transition pathways and requirements.
- 19.1.4. All transitions are documented and communicated to the institution.

## 19.2. Progression Pathways

- 19.2.1. Candidacy to Provisional Accreditation occurs when a candidate institution achieves substantial compliance with standards.
- 19.2.2. Candidacy to Full Accreditation occurs when a candidate institution achieves full compliance with all standards.
- 19.2.3. Provisional to Full Accreditation occurs when conditions are met and standards are satisfied.
- 19.2.4. Full Accreditation to Accreditation with Distinction occurs when exceptional quality is demonstrated at renewal.
- 19.2.5. Progression requires successful evaluation demonstrating readiness for the higher level.

## 19.3. Regression Pathways

- 19.3.1. Accreditation with Distinction to Full Accreditation occurs when quality no longer meets Distinction criteria.
- 19.3.2. Full Accreditation to Provisional occurs when concerns emerge requiring conditions.
- 19.3.3. Full or Provisional Accreditation to Suspended occurs when serious concerns require immediate action.
- 19.3.4. Any accredited status to Withdrawn occurs when fundamental non-compliance is established.
- 19.3.5. Regression is accompanied by notification and opportunity to respond.

## 19.4. Neutral Transitions

- 19.4.1. Accreditation to Lapsed occurs through failure to renew.
- 19.4.2. Accreditation to Voluntarily Relinquished occurs through institutional choice.

19.4.3. Candidacy to Exited occurs when candidacy ends without accreditation.

19.4.4. Neutral transitions do not imply adverse findings.

### **19.5. Transition Requirements**

19.5.1. Progression requires evidence of meeting higher-level criteria.

19.5.2. Regression follows due process with notification and opportunity to respond.

19.5.3. All transitions are formally documented.

19.5.4. The institution is notified of any transition in writing.

19.5.5. Transition decisions may be appealed where applicable.

### **19.6. Timing of Transitions**

19.6.1. Progression transitions typically occur at scheduled evaluation points.

19.6.2. Regression transitions may occur at any time when concerns are identified.

19.6.3. The effective date of transition is specified in notification.

19.6.4. Institutions must comply with requirements of their new status from the effective date.

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# 20. Accreditation Cycle Duration

## 20.1. Overview

- 20.1.1. Accreditation is granted for defined cycle periods.
- 20.1.2. Cycle duration varies based on accreditation type, level, and sector.
- 20.1.3. Renewal is required before each cycle ends to maintain continuous accreditation.
- 20.1.4. Cycle duration reflects the period between comprehensive evaluations.

## 20.2. Institutional Accreditation Cycles

- 20.2.1. Candidacy status is granted for two years with possible one-year extension.
- 20.2.2. Provisional accreditation is granted for two years with possible one-year extension.
- 20.2.3. Full accreditation is granted for five years.
- 20.2.4. Accreditation with Distinction is granted for five to seven years.
- 20.2.5. Shorter cycles may be specified based on specific circumstances.

## 20.3. Program Accreditation Cycles

- 20.3.1. Provisional program accreditation is granted for two years.
- 20.3.2. Full program accreditation is granted for three to five years depending on sector.
- 20.3.3. Program Accreditation with Distinction is granted for five years.
- 20.3.4. Cycle duration considers program delivery frequency and assessment needs.

## 20.4. Cycle Commencement

- 20.4.1. The accreditation cycle begins on the effective date of accreditation.
- 20.4.2. For renewals, the new cycle begins on the day following the previous cycle's expiry.
- 20.4.3. Cycle dates are specified in accreditation documentation.
- 20.4.4. Institutions should note cycle dates and plan for timely renewal.

## 20.5. Cycle Extension

- 20.5.1. Cycle extension may be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- 20.5.2. Extension may be appropriate when unforeseen events affect renewal timing.

20.5.3. Extension requires formal request and approval.

20.5.4. Extensions are typically limited to six to twelve months.

20.5.5. Extended cycles do not affect subsequent cycle duration.

## **20.6. Renewal Planning**

20.6.1. Institutions should begin renewal planning at least eighteen months before cycle end.

20.6.2. Renewal applications should be submitted at least twelve months before cycle end.

20.6.3. Renewal evaluation should be completed before cycle end to ensure continuous accreditation.

20.6.4. IEB provides guidance and reminders to support timely renewal.

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# 21. Public Disclosure of Status

## 21.1. Principles of Disclosure

- 21.1.1. Accreditation status is publicly disclosed to enable stakeholder verification.
- 21.1.2. Disclosure serves transparency and protects public interest.
- 21.1.3. Disclosure is limited to information necessary for verification purposes.
- 21.1.4. Certain information remains confidential as specified in IEB policies.

## 21.2. Information Disclosed

- 21.2.1. The name of the accredited institution is disclosed.
- 21.2.2. The current accreditation status is disclosed.
- 21.2.3. The accreditation type, whether institutional or program, is disclosed.
- 21.2.4. The accreditation level is disclosed.
- 21.2.5. The accreditation scope is disclosed.
- 21.2.6. The effective date and expiry date of accreditation are disclosed.
- 21.2.7. Any current suspension status is disclosed.
- 21.2.8. Withdrawn status is disclosed.

## 21.3. IEB Accredited Institutions Directory

- 21.3.1. IEB maintains a publicly accessible Accredited Institutions Directory.
- 21.3.2. The directory is available through the IEB website.
- 21.3.3. The directory is updated regularly to reflect current status.
- 21.3.4. Stakeholders may use the directory to verify accreditation claims.
- 21.3.5. The directory is the authoritative source for accreditation status.

## 21.4. Confidential Information

- 21.4.1. Evaluation reports and findings are not publicly disclosed.
- 21.4.2. Conditions attached to accreditation are not routinely disclosed unless affecting status.
- 21.4.3. Applications and institutions denied accreditation are not disclosed.

21.4.4. Internal deliberations and panel recommendations are confidential.

21.4.5. Confidential information may be disclosed only in accordance with IEB policies.

## **21.5. Status Updates**

21.5.1. Status changes are reflected in the directory promptly.

21.5.2. Positive changes such as progression to higher level are updated upon decision.

21.5.3. Negative changes such as suspension or withdrawal are updated upon effective date.

21.5.4. Institutions are responsible for aligning their communications with current status.

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## 22. Use of Accreditation Status

### 22.1. Authorized Use

- 22.1.1. Accredited institutions may reference their IEB accreditation status.
- 22.1.2. Use must accurately reflect the current status held.
- 22.1.3. Use must be consistent with IEB policies and guidelines.
- 22.1.4. Use must not be misleading or create false impressions.
- 22.1.5. Specific guidance on use is provided in the IEB Recognition and Representation Policy and Logo Use and Intellectual Property Policy.

### 22.2. Accurate Representation

- 22.2.1. The accreditation type, whether institutional or program, must be accurately stated.
- 22.2.2. The accreditation level must be accurately stated.
- 22.2.3. The accreditation scope must not be overstated.
- 22.2.4. Candidacy must not be represented as accreditation.
- 22.2.5. Provisional status must be disclosed when required.
- 22.2.6. Suspended, withdrawn, lapsed, or relinquished status must not be concealed.

### 22.3. Prohibited Use

- 22.3.1. Institutions may not claim accreditation they do not hold.
- 22.3.2. Former status may not be used to imply current accreditation.
- 22.3.3. Accreditation scope may not be extended beyond what is granted.
- 22.3.4. IEB accreditation may not be represented as government approval or statutory recognition.
- 22.3.5. IEB accreditation may not be represented as degree equivalence or professional licensure.
- 22.3.6. Accreditation status may not be used in ways that damage IEB's reputation.

### 22.4. Use of IEB Accreditation Mark

- 22.4.1. Accredited institutions may use the IEB accreditation mark.
- 22.4.2. Use must comply with the IEB Logo Use and Intellectual Property Policy.

- 22.4.3. The mark must not be modified without authorization.
- 22.4.4. Use must cease immediately upon status change requiring cessation.
- 22.4.5. Unauthorized use of the mark is prohibited and may result in legal action.

## **22.5. Monitoring of Use**

- 22.5.1. IEB monitors use of accreditation status and marks.
  - 22.5.2. Misuse identified is addressed with the institution.
  - 22.5.3. Persistent or serious misuse may affect accreditation status.
  - 22.5.4. Unauthorized use by non-accredited entities is pursued by IEB.
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# 23. Status Verification

## 23.1. Verification Services

23.1.1. IEB provides verification services for stakeholders seeking to confirm accreditation status.

23.1.2. Verification confirms whether an institution holds current IEB accreditation.

23.1.3. Verification may confirm accreditation type, level, and scope.

23.1.4. Verification protects stakeholders from misrepresentation.

## 23.2. Verification Methods

23.2.1. Online verification is available through the IEB Accredited Institutions Directory.

23.2.2. Direct verification requests may be submitted to IEB Secretariat.

23.2.3. Written verification letters may be provided upon request.

23.2.4. Institutions may request verification letters to provide to stakeholders.

## 23.3. Third-Party Inquiries

23.3.1. IEB responds to legitimate third-party inquiries regarding accreditation status.

23.3.2. Information provided is limited to publicly disclosed information.

23.3.3. Confidential information is not provided to third parties without consent.

23.3.4. Third parties include employers, other institutions, government agencies, and individuals.

## 23.4. Verification of Former Status

23.4.1. IEB may confirm historical accreditation status upon request.

23.4.2. Confirmation includes the period during which accreditation was held.

23.4.3. Confirmation includes the manner in which accreditation ended, such as withdrawal, lapse, or relinquishment.

23.4.4. Historical records are maintained for verification purposes.

# 24. Roles and Responsibilities

## 24.1. Institution Responsibilities

- 24.1.1. Institutions are responsible for understanding the meaning of their accreditation status.
- 24.1.2. Institutions are responsible for accurately representing their status to stakeholders.
- 24.1.3. Institutions are responsible for complying with requirements of their status level.
- 24.1.4. Institutions are responsible for timely renewal to maintain continuous accreditation.
- 24.1.5. Institutions are responsible for notifying IEB of changes affecting status.
- 24.1.6. Institutions are responsible for using accreditation marks appropriately.
- 24.1.7. Institutions are responsible for communicating status changes to stakeholders.

## 24.2. IEB Secretariat Responsibilities

- 24.2.1. IEB Secretariat is responsible for maintaining accurate status records.
- 24.2.2. IEB Secretariat is responsible for updating the Accredited Institutions Directory.
- 24.2.3. IEB Secretariat is responsible for communicating status decisions to institutions.
- 24.2.4. IEB Secretariat is responsible for providing status verification services.
- 24.2.5. IEB Secretariat is responsible for monitoring use of accreditation status.
- 24.2.6. IEB Secretariat is responsible for providing guidance on status-related matters.

## 24.3. Accreditation Committee Responsibilities

- 24.3.1. The Accreditation Committee is responsible for accreditation decisions affecting status.
- 24.3.2. The Accreditation Committee is responsible for decisions on suspension and withdrawal.
- 24.3.3. The Accreditation Committee is responsible for ensuring consistency in status decisions.
- 24.3.4. The Accreditation Committee is responsible for reviewing status-related policies.

## 24.4. Appeals Panel Responsibilities

- 24.4.1. The Appeals Panel is responsible for hearing appeals against adverse status decisions.

24.4.2. The Appeals Panel is responsible for ensuring fair process in status appeals.

24.4.3. The Appeals Panel is responsible for providing reasoned appeal decisions.

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# 25. Policy Review

## 25.1. Review Frequency

- 25.1.1. This policy is reviewed every two years from the effective date.
- 25.1.2. Reviews may occur more frequently if circumstances require.
- 25.1.3. Significant changes in practice or stakeholder feedback may trigger earlier review.
- 25.1.4. Changes in accreditation best practice may inform policy updates.

## 25.2. Review Responsibility

- 25.2.1. The IEB Secretariat is responsible for initiating and coordinating policy reviews.
- 25.2.2. The review process includes consultation with the Accreditation Committee.
- 25.2.3. The review considers operational experience, feedback, and best practices.
- 25.2.4. Stakeholder input may be sought during reviews.

## 25.3. Approval Authority

- 25.3.1. Amendments to this policy require approval by the IEB Governing Board.
- 25.3.2. Minor editorial changes may be approved by the Director of IEB Secretariat.
- 25.3.3. Substantive changes affecting status definitions or criteria require full Board consideration.

## 25.4. Communication of Changes

- 25.4.1. Changes are communicated to accredited institutions and current applicants.
  - 25.4.2. Changes are published on the IEB website.
  - 25.4.3. Reasonable notice is provided before changes take effect.
  - 25.4.4. Transitional arrangements are specified when changes affect current status holders.
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# 26. Disclaimer and Legal Position

## 26.1. Non-Statutory Status

- 26.1.1. IEB is an independent, private, non-governmental, and non-statutory organization.
- 26.1.2. IEB is not a government body, regulator, or licensing authority in any jurisdiction.
- 26.1.3. IEB accreditation status is voluntary quality recognition.
- 26.1.4. IEB accreditation status does not constitute government approval or statutory recognition.
- 26.1.5. IEB accreditation status does not constitute regulatory licensing or authorization.

## 26.2. No Legal Equivalence

- 26.2.1. IEB accreditation status does not grant degree equivalence.
- 26.2.2. IEB accreditation status does not grant professional licensure.
- 26.2.3. IEB accreditation status does not grant legal recognition of qualifications.
- 26.2.4. IEB accreditation status does not override, replace, or substitute for national or regional regulatory approvals.
- 26.2.5. Recognition of institutions and qualifications remains subject to requirements of relevant authorities.

## 26.3. Institutional Responsibility

- 26.3.1. Institutions remain solely responsible for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- 26.3.2. Institutions must not represent IEB accreditation as government approval.
- 26.3.3. Institutions are responsible for accurate representation of their status.
- 26.3.4. Misrepresentation of status may result in adverse action.

## 26.4. Limitation of Liability

- 26.4.1. IEB shall not be liable for decisions made by third parties based on accreditation status.
- 26.4.2. IEB's liability is limited to the extent permitted by applicable law.
- 26.4.3. Status decisions are made in good faith based on available evidence.

## 27. Conclusion

- 27.1. This Accreditation Levels and Status Policy establishes a comprehensive framework for IEB accreditation.
- 27.2. The framework provides clear definitions of accreditation types, levels, and status categories.
- 27.3. The policy supports appropriate recognition of institutions at different stages of quality development.
- 27.4. Clear pathways for progression enable institutions to aspire to higher levels of recognition.
- 27.5. The status framework protects the integrity and value of IEB accreditation.
- 27.6. Transparent disclosure enables stakeholders to verify and understand accreditation status.
- 27.7. Due process provisions ensure fair treatment in status decisions.
- 27.8. This policy supports IEB's mission of promoting quality education through voluntary accreditation.
- 27.9. Institutions are encouraged to understand this policy and the meaning of their accreditation status.
- 27.10. Questions regarding accreditation status should be directed to IEB Secretariat.
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# 28. Annexures

## 28.1. Annexure A: Summary of Accreditation Levels

28.1.1. Annexure A provides a summary reference of all accreditation levels and their key characteristics.

28.1.2. The summary includes eligibility requirements, cycle duration, and progression pathways for each level.

28.1.3. The annexure is available as a separate document from IEB Secretariat.

## 28.2. Annexure B: Status Transition Diagram

28.2.1. Annexure B provides a visual representation of status transitions.

28.2.2. The diagram shows possible pathways between statuses.

28.2.3. The annexure is available as a separate document from IEB Secretariat.

## 28.3. Annexure C: Approved Status Statements

28.3.1. Annexure C provides approved language for institutions to use when representing their status.

28.3.2. The guidance covers each status level and type.

28.3.3. The annexure is available as a separate document from IEB Secretariat.

## 28.4. Annexure D: Status Verification Request Form

28.4.1. Annexure D provides the form for requesting formal status verification.

28.4.2. The form is available for institutions and third parties.

28.4.3. The annexure is available as a separate document from IEB Secretariat.

## 28.5. Annexure E: Glossary of Terms

28.5.1. Annexure E provides extended definitions of terms used in this policy.

28.5.2. The glossary supplements Section 4 definitions.

28.5.3. The annexure is available as a separate document from IEB Secretariat.

# 29. Document Control

## 29.1. Document Information

29.1.1. Document Title: Accreditation Levels and Status Policy

29.1.2. Document Code: IEB-POL-004

29.1.3. Version: 1.0

29.1.4. Effective Date: January 2026

29.1.5. Next Review Date: January 2029

29.1.6. Prepared by: International Education Board Quality Assurance Division

29.1.7. Approved By: IEB Governing Council

29.1.8. Classification: Public

## 29.2. Version History

29.2.1. Version 1.0 represents the initial release of this policy.

29.2.2. Future versions will be documented with version number, date, and summary of changes.

29.2.3. All previous versions are archived and available upon request.

## 29.3. Related Documents

29.3.1. IEB Accreditation Framework and Standards Policy (IEB-POL-001)

29.3.2. IEB Accreditation Process Policy (IEB-POL-002)

29.3.3. IEB Eligibility Criteria Policy (IEB-POL-003)

29.3.4. IEB Accreditation Validity, Monitoring, and Review Policy (IEB-POL-005)

29.3.5. IEB Complaints, Appeals, and Grievance Policy (IEB-POL-006)

29.3.6. IEB Data Protection and Privacy Policy (IEB-POL-007)

29.3.7. IEB Recognition and Representation Policy (IEB-POL-008)

29.3.8. IEB Logo Use and Intellectual Property Policy (IEB-POL-009)

29.3.9. IEB Accreditation Decision-Making and Oversight Policy (IEB-POL-010)

29.3.10. IEB Fee Schedule and Payment Policy (IEB-POL-011)

## **30. Approval**

### **Policy Approval**

30. 1. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the IEB Governing Board.
  30. 2. Approval signifies that the policy is consistent with IEB's mission, values, and governance framework.
  30. 3. The policy takes effect from the Effective Date stated in this document.
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### **End of Document**

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