



*James Steintrager*  
*Telephone: (510) 987-9983*  
*Email: james.steintrager@ucop.edu*

*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate*  
*Faculty Representative to the Regents*  
*University of California*  
*1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor*  
*Oakland, California 94607-5200*

February 12, 2024

**KATHERINE S. NEWMAN**  
**PROVOST & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

**Re: Regional and Institutional Accreditation Terminology**

Dear Katherine,

In 2020, the US Department of Education removed the differentiation between regional and national accrediting agencies, creating a new comprehensive list of accreditors. Consequently, organizations previously classified as “national” accrediting agencies are now in a single list that includes the regional agencies that UC has long accepted for institutional accreditation purposes. The University of California currently accepts courses for transfer credit from seven accrediting organizations that were previously termed “regional.” However, the distinct list for “regional” accreditors no longer exists. UC policies and guidelines have not yet been revised to specifically refer to those formerly regional agencies now incorporated into the new list.

At its January 2024 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached request from the University Committee on Educational Policy, advocating for UC to maintain its practice of accepting courses only from institutions accredited by the seven formerly regional accrediting agencies. This terminology change also reflects the updated accreditation organization names.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Steintrager".

James Steintrager, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council  
Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director Yoon-Wu  
Senate Division Executive Directors  
Senate Executive Director Lin

Encl:



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
Melanie Cocco, Chair  
mcocco@uci.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9466

December 20, 2023

**JAMES STEINTRAGER, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: REGIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION TERMINOLOGY**

Dear Jim,

In 2020 the U.S. Department of Education made a change to how accredited institutions are referenced, but UC still acknowledges acceptance of courses only from institutions accredited by regional accrediting agencies. Undergraduate Admissions at UCOP notified the Senate about the need to catch up with the newer terminology and accrediting agency distinctions in order to avoid a situation where course articulations are rejected for using outdated names. The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) discussed this matter on December 4<sup>th</sup> and endorsed a proposal to continue to accept courses from institutions accredited by the formerly labeled “regional accreditors.” Those institutions are:

1. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE)
3. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), formerly North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
6. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)
7. WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)

UCEP sought input from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and the University Committee on Preparatory Education, and both committees have indicated their agreement with this proposal. UCEP requests that Academic Council endorse the proposal for the UC system to continue accepting courses from institutions that are accredited by the formerly regional accrediting agencies. The Provost’s Office should be informed that the Senate has determined that the UC policy on accreditation remains the same.

UCEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Cocco".

Melanie Cocco, Chair  
UCEP