

Rating Compliance with the Standards

The quality assurance aspect of accreditation is accomplished by requiring that a school must meet all Standards at any time that compliance is assessed by the Commission or bring itself into compliance within a time period set by the Commission, not to exceed one year.

The Commission applies a six point scale for assessing compliance with a standard. The test to be applied for judgment as to whether a standard is passed or failed is to ask, "Is student experience supported (standard is passed) or compromised (standard is failed) by the school's position with regard to this standard?"

The Commission anticipates that most schools will meet all of the applicable standards, but that there will often be room for improvement. With this in mind, there are three passing levels: "1. exemplary," "2. Fully in compliance," and "3. Acceptable but needs attention." The last indicates that the school needs to take action to strengthen its performance in this area.

In instances when a school fails a standard, there are again three levels. "4. Non-Compliance with Standard to be resolved within one year" indicates that the school is fully aware of the deficiency, has plans and resources in place, and will correct the situation within a short time. "5. Non-Compliance with Standard is recognized but no specific plan for rectification exists" says that the school is aware and committed, but that the immediacy of the remediation is less certain (perhaps resources are not yet available). "6. Non-Compliance with Standard not recognized by the school" indicates that the standard is failed and the school's willingness or ability to remediate it is in doubt.

Schools are asked as part of their self-study to rate themselves on each standard, using the form reproduced below. The visiting committee will also rate the school on each standard and is asked to explain its rating and to comment on any difference from the school's rating of itself.

Rate the school on the following six-point scale with regard to this Standard:

Passed (Student experience is supported)

1. _____ Exemplary.
2. _____ Fully in compliance.
3. _____ Acceptable but needs attention.

Failed (Student experience is compromised)

4. _____ Non-Compliance with Standard to be resolved within one year.
5. _____ Non-Compliance with Standard is recognized but no specific plan for rectification exists.
6. _____ Non-Compliance with Standard not recognized by the school