

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM X-I (1)

Consideration and possible action to adopt amendments to Board Rules, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, Section 2.87, and new rules in Board Rules, Chapter 4, Subchapter J, Sections 4.191-4.192, concerning institutional accreditation requirements

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption

Background Information:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts amendments to rules in Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, Section 2.87, concerning approval of baccalaureate degrees at public junior colleges, and new rules in Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter J, concerning recognized institutional accreditors. Specifically, the amended section in 2.87 authorizes a public junior college with a baccalaureate degree the ability to change accreditors if it has already been approved by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The new Subchapter J supports the U.S. Department of Education's decision to allow regional accrediting organizations to accredit institutions anywhere in the country.

These changes align with Texas Education Code, Sections 61.051 and 61.003(13), which provide the Board with authority to coordinate higher education and designate recognized accreditation organizations.

Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, will present this item and be available to answer questions.

Date Published in the *Texas Register*: October 13, 2023.

The 30-day comment period with the *Texas Register* ended on: November 12, 2023.

No comments were received regarding this rule. Non-substantive edits were made to the listing of accreditors.

CHAPTER 2:
ACADEMIC AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION

SUBCHAPTER E:
APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NEW BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC JUNIOR
COLLEGES

Rule 2.87 Criteria for New Baccalaureate Degree Programs

(a) The Board may authorize baccalaureate degree programs at a public junior college in the fields of applied science, including a degree program in applied science with an emphasis on early childhood education, applied technology, or nursing, that have a demonstrated workforce need.

(b) All proposed baccalaureate degree programs must meet the criteria set out in this subsection, in addition to the general criteria in subchapter A, §2.5 (relating to General Criteria for Program Approval), and subchapter F, §2.118 (relating to Post-Approval Program Reviews), of this chapter.

(c) Each public junior college seeking to offer a baccalaureate degree program must comply with the requirements and limitations specified in Tex. Educ. Code, chapter 130, subchapter L.

(d) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program must meet all applicable accreditation requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. A public junior college that has attained accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is authorized to change accreditors to any accrediting agency approved by the Board under chapter 4, subchapter J of this title (relating to Accreditation).

SUBCHAPTER J:
ACCREDITATION

§4.191 Authority

The authority for this subchapter is Texas Education Code, §61.051 and §61.003(13) which provides the board with authority to coordinate higher education and designate recognized accreditation organizations.

§4.192 Recognized Accreditation Organizations

The board recognizes institutions of higher education that offer an associate degree or higher, by one of the following organizations:

1. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), ~~Western Association of Schools and College;~~
2. Higher Learning Commission (HLC);
3. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE);
4. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE);

5. Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU);

6. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);

7. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission

This also includes any revisions to the names of these organizations moving forward.