

ii. Within a period of time that the institution may reasonably expect to meet the requirements, an in-state degree-granting institution must gain candidate or applicant status as appropriate for accreditation and subsequently accreditation from an accrediting body approved by the Commission, typically one recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The period of time to gain candidate status (up to four years) and accreditation (up to a total of eight years) will be determined by the Commission in consultation with the institution. To determine the appropriate accrediting agency and length of time within which an institution must gain candidate/applicant status and accreditation, the Commission must take into consideration the objectives and length of the programs and requirements of the accrediting body.

iii. An accrediting body approved by the Commission must accredit an in-state nondegree-granting institution before the institution seeks licensure to offer programs leading to degrees.

B. There is in the institution adequate space, equipment, instructional material, and appropriately qualified instructional personnel to provide training and education of good quality. The student-teacher ratio shall be reasonable at all times in keeping with generally accepted teaching modes for the subject matter. Skill training requires more attention, and thereby requires smaller classes. The institution must employ at least one full-time faculty for each major, curricular area, or concentration. This requirement may be met by faculty at the main campus and/or at locations within South Carolina. A full-time faculty member is one whose major employment is with the institution, whose primary assignment is in teaching and/or research, and whose employment is based on a contract for full-time employment. Institutions must ensure that each faculty member employed is proficient in oral and written communication in the language in which assigned courses will be taught. The institution must keep on file for each full-time and part-time faculty member documentation of academic preparation, such as official transcripts and, if appropriate for demonstrating competency, official documentation of professional and work experience, technical and performance competency, records of publications, certifications, and other qualifications. Institutions are encouraged to recruit and select faculty whose highest degree is earned from a broad representation of institutions.

C. The institution owns or makes available sufficient learning resources or, through formal agreements with institutional or other (where adequate) libraries to which students have access, ensures the provision of and access to adequate learning resources and services required to support the courses, programs and degrees offered. Formal agreements are defined and understood as written agreements in which each of the parties states clearly the resources and services it is willing and able to provide. Formal agreements shall be regularly reviewed and reaffirmed by participating parties.

D. A procedure exists for maintaining written records of the previous education and training of the applicant student clearly showing that appropriate credit is given by the institution, shortening the education and training period where warranted, and notifying the student. The policy must include the requirement for official transcripts of credit earned from institutions previously attended and qualitative and quantitative criteria for acceptability of transfer work. Institutions must award credit in accord with commonly accepted good practice in higher education. Institutions that award credit for experiential learning must do so under recognized guidelines that aid in evaluation for credit such as those prescribed by the American Council on Education. At least twenty-five percent of the program must be earned through instruction by the institution awarding the degree. Articulation agreements between associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should be evaluated periodically to ensure an equitable and efficient transfer of students. "Inverted," "two plus two" and similar programs must include an adequate amount of advanced coursework in the subject field. Not more than sixty-four credit hours (approximately one-half) of a baccalaureate program may be transferred from a two-year (Level I accredited) institution. Out-of-state institutions offering programs at branch sites must grant transfer credit into the same programs at its principal location.

E. The institution has developed satisfactory course and program outline(s) including syllabi for each course specifying goals and requirements, course content, methods of evaluation, and bibliography; a schedule of tuition, fees, other charges and refund policy; attendance policy; grading policy including a policy for incomplete grades; rules of operation and conduct; and a policy for handling student complaints in compliance with Regulation 62-27.

F. The institution must award the student an appropriate certificate, diploma or degree showing satisfactory completion of the course, program, or degree.