

## **University of Memphis – Accreditation Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

Pursuant to state law, each governing board of a public institution of higher education must regularly update the institution's policies and practices regarding institutional accreditation to conform with changes made by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) or by the United States Congress. Each governing board of a public institution of higher education in the state must identify and determine the institutional accrediting agencies or associations eligible to serve as an accreditor. Such institutional accrediting agencies or associations must be recognized by the database created and maintained by the USDOE.

The University of Memphis is committed to upholding a high standard of academic excellence through the accreditation process. In alignment with that commitment, and pursuant to state law, the University retains the authority and flexibility to pursue accreditation by any accreditor recognized by the USDOE for the kinds of programs offered by the University.

### **Definitions**

Institutional accrediting agencies or associations refers to the list of accreditors recognized by the United States Department of Education. Institutional accrediting agencies ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

### **Policy**

#### *Available Accreditors*

The University of Memphis may choose an institutional accreditor from the following list of USDOE-approved accrediting bodies.

1. Higher Learning Commission
2. Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3. New England Commission of Higher Education
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges
6. WASC Senior College and University Commission

#### *Changing Institutional Accreditor*

The University of Memphis may choose to change its institutional accreditor. The proposed change will be initiated by a recommendation from the President of the University, with approval required by a majority vote of the full body of the Board of Trustees.

#### *State Law Compliance*

An accrediting agency or association is prohibited from compelling a public institution of higher education to violate state law. Any adverse action taken against the University based on the University's compliance with state law may itself be a violation of law and may result in the University pursuing a civil action against the accrediting agency or association. If an accrediting agency or association violates T.C.A. § 49-7-187(b), the Board of Trustees shall notify the State of Tennessee General Assembly in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the violation.

#### *Review of Policy*

The University of Memphis' Board of Trustees shall review this policy once every three years to adapt to any changes made by the USDOE or United States Congress.

*T.C.A. §§ 49-8-203, Public Chapter 868 (2024)*

*Approved by Board of Trustees: December 4, 2024*