

# DITEB Supplemental Communications GUIDE on Degree-Granting Authority for DoD Institutions

**Reference:** DoDI 5545.04 “Congressional Reporting for Military Educational Institutions Seeking to Establish, Modify, or Redesignate Degrees”

**Purpose:** To provide information, procedures, and a notional timeline related to the process leading to degree-granting authority for a DoD institution.

- Authorities:**
- Title 10 U.S. Code Chapter 108 – Department of Defense Schools—Federal Policy Governing the Granting of Academic Degrees by Federal Agencies and Institutions (approved December 23 1954: Letter from DR, Bureau of the Budget, to Secretary, Health, Education, and Welfare)
  - DoDI 5105.04 Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program, August 6, 2007
  - Federal Advisory Committee Act 5 USC

**Background:** DoD institutions may be eligible to seek degree-granting authority based in Federal law and written into statute (Title 10 U.S. Code Chapter 108 – Department of Defense Schools). While only the Secretary of Defense can provide degree-granting authority to schools, the process involves the Department of Education, a regional accrediting body, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Defense Chief Management Officer, and is a lengthy process.

**Goals:** To enable DoD learning institutions to prepare for and conduct the activities involved with seeking degree-granting authority through the Department of Education.

- Objectives:**
- Identify the five key actors in the degree-granting process
  - Identify dependencies in the requirements and processes
  - Provide a common frame of reference for all participants in the process
  - Way forward; “To Do List”

- Contacts:**
- Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness
  - Department of Education



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## Guidance:

Components should think carefully about the investment in becoming a degree-granting institution. The Degree granting authority process and the institutional accreditation process are both lengthy and challenging. Components can consider other options, such as articulation agreements with colleges and universities.

The implications for Federal agencies can be determined by answering the following three questions:

- Are you ready to relinquish control of the standards and quality oversight of the program?
- Are you prepared for the intrusive oversight of accreditation?
- Are you prepared for the degree-granting process?

Business requirements often result in changes in focus of a DoD Program; however, when switching to regional accreditation, the component becomes also accountable to external requirements. In higher education context, this includes accreditors and the U.S. Department of Education.

## Roles and Responsibilities:

### Component/Applicant

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### Accrediting Body

Regional accreditation is the educational accreditation of schools, colleges, and universities in the United States by one of six regional accrediting agencies. Accreditation, technically a voluntary process, is a means by which colleges demonstrate to each other, and sometimes to employers and licensing agencies, that their credits and degrees meet minimum standards. It is the self-regulation of the higher education industry.



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Sponsor (USD(I)), USD(P&R)

Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)) serves as the manager and owner of the DoD Instruction that will provide degree-granting authority for the new degree-granting institution or program. The USD(I), also advocates on behalf of the Component/Applicant as they go through the steps and interact with the government members in the process.

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is the Federal authority required to approve the request for degree-granting authority.

Upon approval by NACIQI and the Committee for Review of Petitions and Reports of the Department of Education, USD(P&R) notifies Congress and OMB.

Degree Granting Authority (DoEd/NACIQI)

The Secretary of Education appointed the National Advisory Committee of Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) to advise him concerning any legislation that may be proposed which would authorize the granting of graduate degrees by Federal Agencies.

To receive degree-granting authority, the Component/Applicant must demonstrate that the degree program complies with the following criteria.

- Must be mission essential
- Must offer unique education
- Must meet academic standards
- Must ensure academic freedom

A self-study is submitted by the Component/Applicant to NACIQI, who conducts site visits and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Education to authorize degree granting status.

FACA Authority for Board of Visitors (BoV):

Institutions undergoing this process need to establish a Board of Visitors that is compliant with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Defense Chief Management Officer (DCMO) is the FACA authority and prepares the Charter and package for the Board of Visitors. The Secretary of Defense will approve the individual members. In the case of DoD Intelligence and Security learning institutions, the OUSD(I) CLO helps coordinate the process with the DCMO's representative, and the approving Under Secretary is the USD(I).

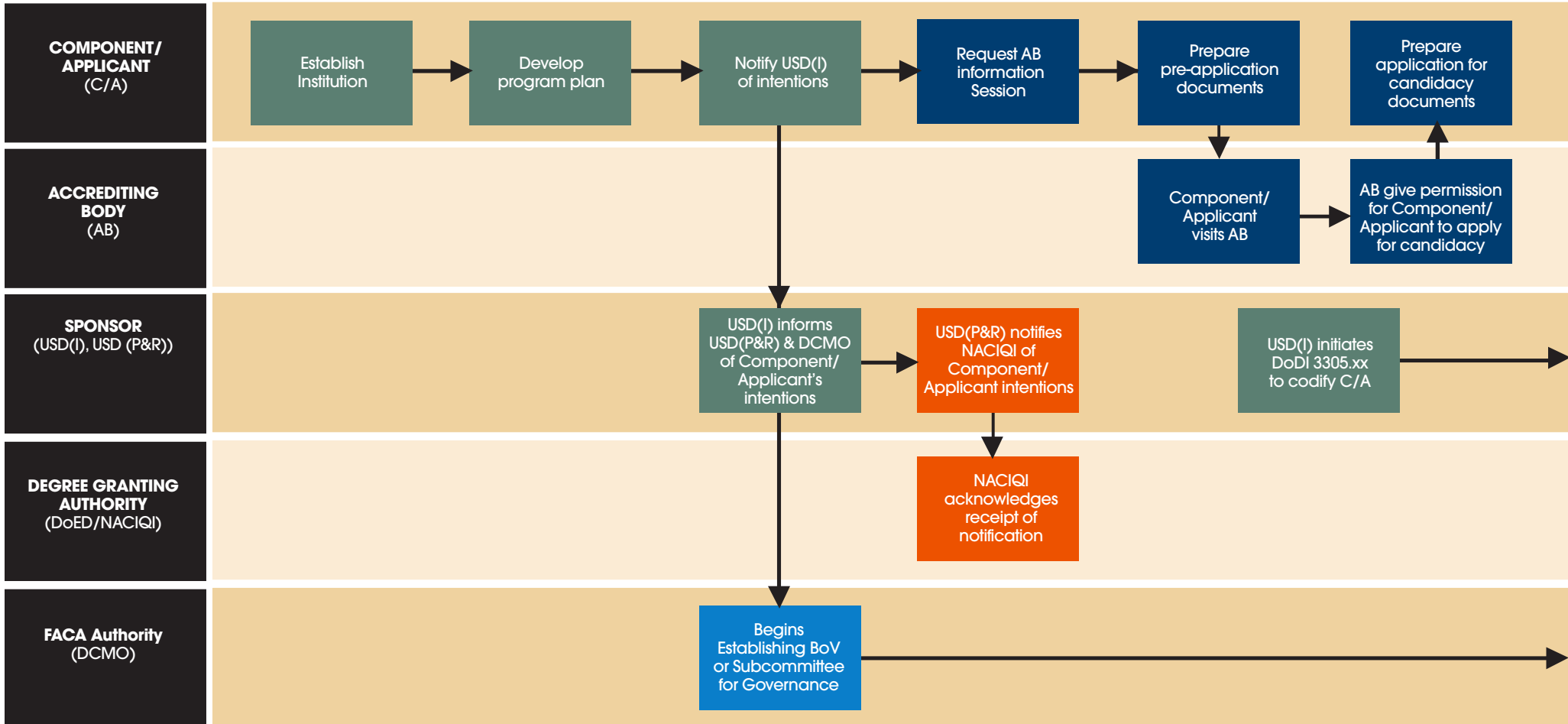
Flowchart of Process:

The remainder of the document includes a notional flowchart process. Note that the order and specific requirements will change depending on the specific component and accrediting body.





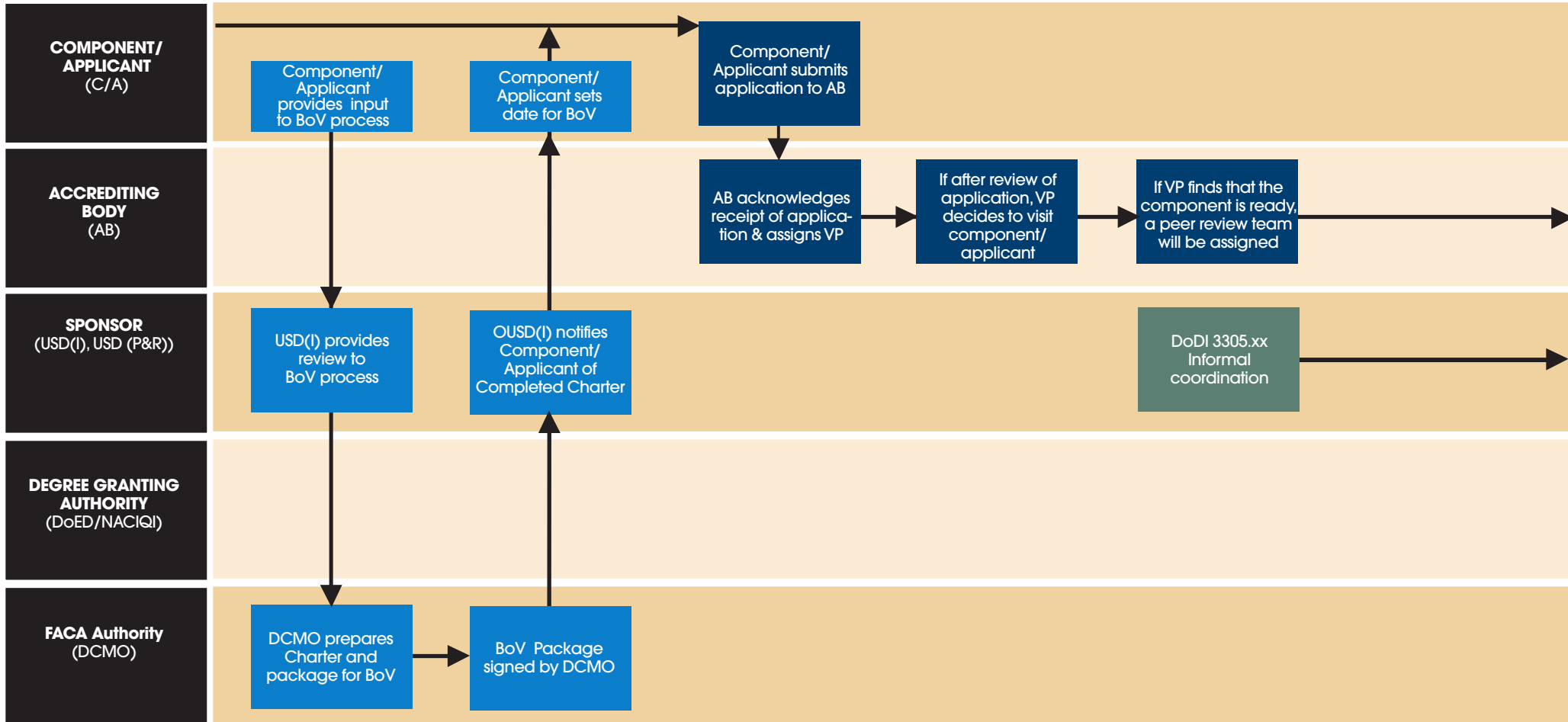
# Degree Granting Authority Process for DoD Institutions



- Accreditation Process
- Board of Visitors (BoV)
- Policy Development
- Degree-Granting Authority Process



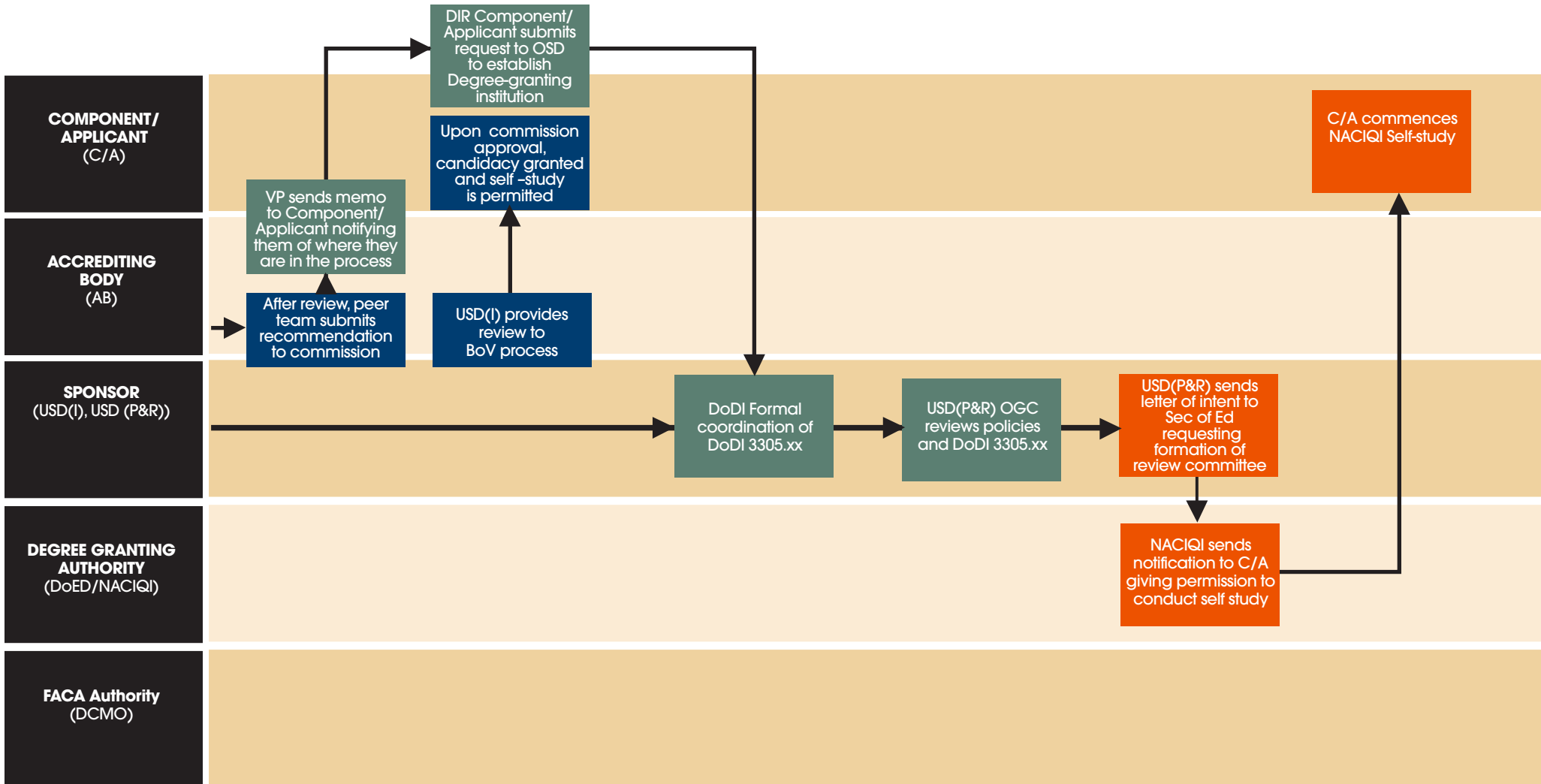
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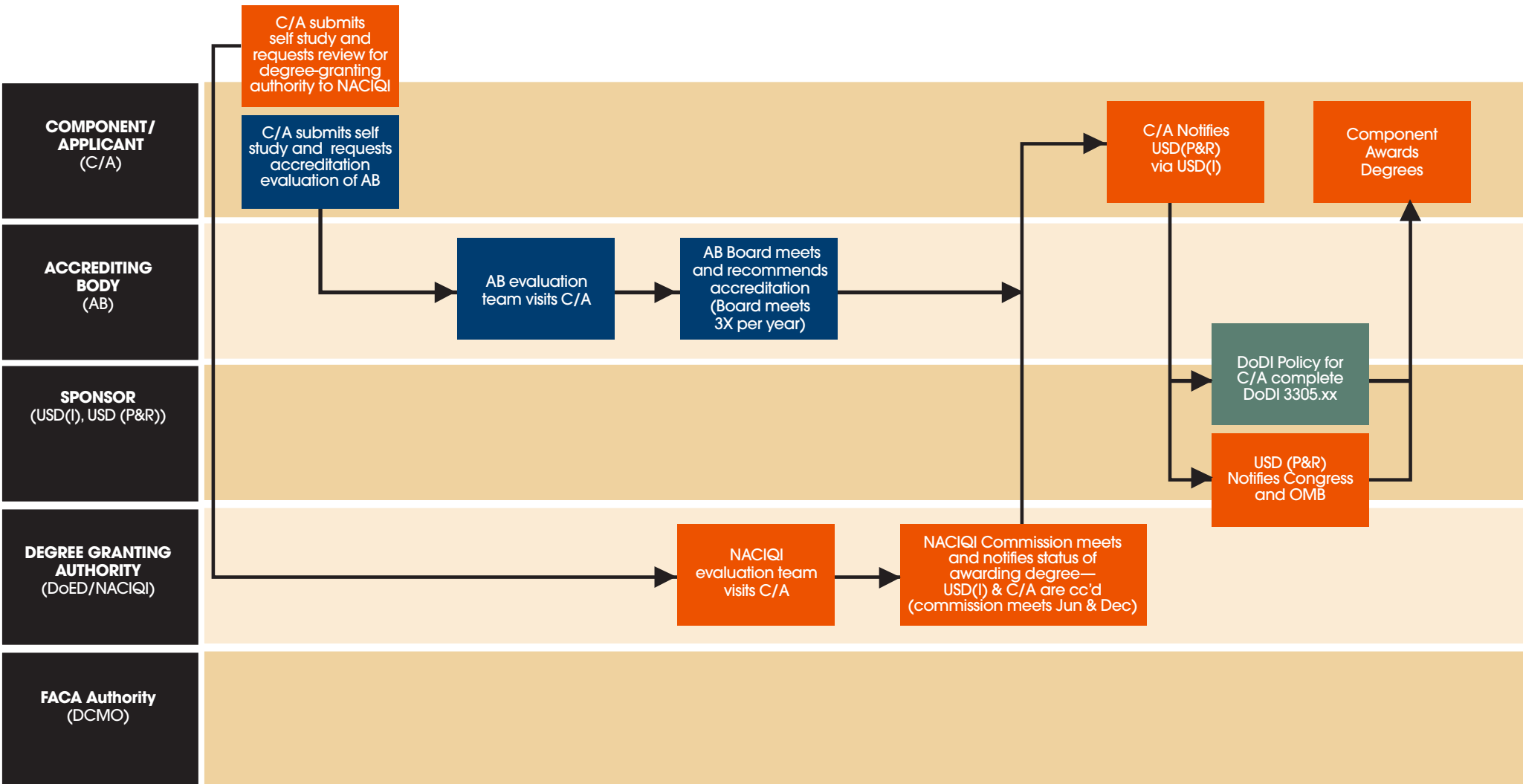
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