

## §602.18 Ensuring consistency in decision-making.

The agency must consistently apply and enforce standards that respect the stated mission of the institution, including religious mission, and that ensure that the education or training offered by an institution or program, including any offered through distance education ~~or~~ correspondence courses, or direct assessment education, ~~is~~ is of sufficient quality to achieve its stated objective for the duration of any accreditation or preaccreditation period ~~granted by the agency.~~ The agency meets this requirement if the agency— —

~~(a) Has written specification of the requirements for accreditation and preaccreditation that include clear standards for an institution or program to be accredited;~~

~~(b) Has effective controls against the inconsistent application of the agency's standards;~~

~~(c) Bases decisions regarding accreditation and preaccreditation on the agency's published standards;~~

~~(d) Has a reasonable basis for determining that the information the agency relies on for making accrediting decisions is accurate; and~~

~~(e)~~

(a) Provides the institution or program with a detailed written report that clearly identifies any deficiencies in the institution's or program's compliance with the agency's standards;

(b) At the request of an institution, performs a review of the agency's respect for the institution's stated mission, including religious mission, and provides a written report of the results of that review;

(c) Does not deny preaccreditation or accreditation, or take action against an institution or program, due to an institution's adherence to its religious mission in any of its policies and practices; and

(d) Agencies ~~must~~ publishes any policies for retroactive application of an accreditation decision.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

**Comment [FB1]:** The subcommittee agreed on this change.

**Comment [FB2]:** Alternate language discussed included:

OPTION 1  
(c) Respects institutional mission, including religious mission, when making preaccreditation or accreditation decisions, or taking action against an institution or program; and

OPTION 2  
(c) Does not deny preaccreditation or accreditation, or take action against an institution or program in a manner that is disrespectful to its religious mission; and