### §602.18 Ensuring consistency in decision-making.

The agency must consistently apply and enforce standards that do not violate 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, correspondence courses, or direct assessment education, is of sufficient quality to achieve its stated objective for the duration of any accreditation or preaccreditation period. 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 that take into account institutional mission;(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;

(e) 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;

(f) Does not deny preaccreditation or accreditation, or take action against an institution or program, due to an institution’s adherence to its religious mission; and (g) Publishes any policies for retroactive application of an accreditation decision. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)