

TEACH-OUT AGREEMENTS

Federal regulations implementing the 1992 Higher Education Act Amendments require that accrediting agencies approve any teach-out agreements between institutions prior to their implementation in the event that an accredited institution closes or terminates a program. A “teach-out agreement” is defined by federal regulations as “a written agreement between accredited institutions that provides for the equitable treatment of students if one of those institutions stops offering an educational program before all students enrolled in that program complete the program.” This policy has been developed to implement that requirement for those institutions which determine to enter into such agreements.

If an institution deciding to close or to discontinue a program before enrolled students have completed their studies enters into a teach-out agreement with another institution, it must submit the agreement to the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions for approval prior to its implementation. An agreement will be approved if it meets the following criteria:

1. It is consistent with Commission standards.
2. It provides for the equitable treatment of students by ensuring that students are provided, without additional charge, all of the instruction promised by the closed institution prior to its closure but not provided to the students because of the closure, and the teach-out institution is geographically proximate to the closed institution and can demonstrate compatibility of its program structure and scheduling to that of the closed institution.

The Commission is committed to work with the U. S. Department of Education and the appropriate state agency, to the extent feasible, to insure that students are given reasonable opportunities to complete their education without additional charge.