

The InCommon FOPP

Changes due to Recent Developments

Federation Operating Practices and Policies

- Last change made was 2018.
- That current version of the [FOPP is here](#).

Dept of Ed: Eliminated Regional and National distinctions

- In February of 2020, the Department of Education [eliminated the distinction between regional and national accrediting agencies.](#)
- This created **one unified set** of "institutional accreditors."

For further background, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) released a [news and opinion piece about this change.](#)

Impact for InCommon

- We define the eligibility criteria for Higher Education Institutions to join InCommon in the Federation's policy document called the FOPP
- In the FOPP (§ [4.1.1.](#))—*and* on our [website](#)—we distinguish these Regional and National accreditation bodies.
- The InCommon Steering Committee governs all changes to this policy document and must vote to approve all updates

Proposed change to the FOPP: Redline

4.1.1 Eligibility to become a participant

InCommon currently has three classes of Participants:

(1) Higher Education (accredited post-secondary institutions and their central offices). To qualify as a Higher Education participant, an organization must be:

- A ~~postsecondary two- or four-year degree-granting~~ institution or program ~~that is~~ accredited by an institutional accreditor recognized by ~~agency on~~ the U.S. Department of Education's ~~list of recognized regional accrediting agencies as listed on the InCommon website (URL found in section 2.4)~~; or
- A state higher education system office or another central coordinating office which either governs or manages a collection of accredited; ~~degree-granting~~ institutions. The entity must be commissioned, established, or recognized by a local, state, or national government ~~to perform this activity~~ or must be a cooperative venture organized by and for the benefit of higher education institutions for the above purposes. Documentation substantiating these criteria may be required, and determinations will be made on a case by case basis.

FOPP Housekeeping: Three other changes proposed

1. Our street address changed in Ann Arbor
2. InCommon ended the "Assurance" program in favor of Baseline Expectations back in May of 2021. [Steering Minutes here](#).
3. The last section of the FOPP mentions a "risk assessment paper"
 - Originally an Appendix in the FOPP from 2004
 - Moved into its own paper as risks became more well understood
 - Eventually not migrated to new InCommon.org website
 - Forever thankful to the Nation Magazine for donating to us our domain: incommon.org!

See [new FOPP redline document for proposed mods](#).

END

SLIDES IN RESERVE

Next Steering Discussion related to Accreditation Changes

<https://incommon.org/community-organizations/>

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FOPP Address change

Change our physical address:

~~400 Phoenix Drive, Suite 111
Ann Arbor, MI 48108~~

To

3520 Green Court, Suite 200
Ann Arbor MI 48105

Website and Accreditation

- For the website, rather than singling out each accreditor, we'll simply point to the new single source of truth from ED:
- "The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs"

<https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

Eligibility as an InCommon Higher Education participant

A Higher Education Institution is defined in InCommon policy as a U.S. two- or four-year institution accredited by one of the following agencies. Also, some systems and central coordinating offices/organizations are also eligible to join under this classification. See [section 4.1 of the FOPP](#), and [send us a note](#) to discuss.

Regional institutional accrediting agencies

These regional accreditation agencies are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

- [Higher Learning Commission](#)
- [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#)
- [New England Commission of Higher Education](#)
- [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#)
- [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#)

National institutional and specialized accrediting bodies

InCommon also accepts accreditation from agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

State Agencies that accredit institutions

Accreditation from these state agencies also meets InCommon's requirements.

- [New York State Board of Regents \(Public Postsecondary Vocational Education\)](#)
- [Oklahoma Board of Career and Technology Education](#)
- [Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education](#)
- [Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs](#)

Deprecated Documents

Risk assessment appendix in the FOPP from 2004:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JKZMr8195aFpVICvWMJJMz1Xq8yNKFMp/view?usp=sharing>

Federation Manager Risk Assessment from 2012:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CsUyIQ8fzadByQzU3q8S0JzmtHWn5WRA/view?usp=sharing>