

Implementation Procedures

for 2020 ATS Commission *Standards of Accreditation*

and 2020 *Policies and Procedures*

(approved June 2020, effective July 2020)

In June 2020 the ATS Commission membership approved new *Standards* and new *Policies and Procedures* that became effective July 1, 2020. However, some aspects of the Standards will be implemented over a two-year period (July 2020-June 2022). Consequently, the ATS Board of Commissioners adopted in June 2020 the following procedures (effective July 1, 2020) regarding the implementation of new *Standards of Accreditation* and new *Policies and Procedures*. An earlier version of these procedures was posted on the ATS website in February 2020, but this is the current version.

A. Regarding petitions and required reports

1. Any petition for substantive change submitted to the Commission after June 2020 *must* follow the new *Standards of Accreditation* and the new *Policies and Procedures* adopted by the membership in June 2020.
2. Any required report not related to an experiment or an exception due after June 2020 should attend to the originally identified issue(s), narrated in light of the new standards. Schools with any questions should consult with their Commission staff liaison prior to the report due date.
3. Any required report related to an *experiment* with a due date after June 2020 should address the issue(s) originally identified, with attention to any significant changes in the new standards. The Board is waiving four of these reports because they address issues no longer considered experiments. The three schools whose four reports on experiments are being waived will be notified by Commission staff by August 1, 2020.
4. All required reports related to an *exception* with a due date after June 2020 are waived since all of those reports address issues no longer considered exceptions. The schools with reports on exceptions being waived will be notified by Commission staff by August 1, 2020.

B. Regarding notations

1. Any school under notation in June 2020 must still demonstrate that it has addressed the original notation(s) by the original due date. Schools with any questions should consult with their Commission staff liaison prior to the report due date. Note that the new *Policies and Procedures* rename “notation” as “warning” and eliminate the current list of notations in favor of simply listing the standard(s) to which the warning applies.

C. Regarding self-study reports for comprehensive visits for reaffirmation or for initial accreditation

1. For visits from fall 2020 through spring 2022, a school’s self-study report *may* address the pre-2020 standards *or* the new standards. Schools with visits then must notify their Commission staff liaison no later than 90 days before the visit as to which set of standards (in their entirety) the school will address.
2. For visits beginning in fall 2022, a school’s self-study report *must* follow the new standards. Any school granted a delay in a visit originally scheduled before fall 2022 should consult with its Commission staff liaison regarding which standards to follow.

3. Beginning in fall 2020, all evaluation committee recommendations and all Board actions will follow the new *Standards* and the new *Policies and Procedures*, even if the school's self-study report addresses the pre-2020 standards. [If the school's self-study report addresses the pre-2020 standards, the committee report (but not the recommendations) will address those also.]
4. Schools hosting visits in fall 2020 and after will be expected to follow the chapter on visits from the new (2020) *Self-Study Handbook* (including visit logistics and materials to be available to evaluation committees), and any school writing to the new standards (as described above) will be expected to follow the new *Self-Study Handbook* in its entirety. The new handbook is posted on the ATS website.

D. Regarding focused evaluation visits

1. Schools hosting focused visits related to Board concerns in fall 2020 and after will be expected to attend to the originally identified issue(s), narrated in light of the new standards, as described in the *Prospectus* to the visit (prepared by Commission staff).
2. Schools hosting focused visits related to petitions in fall 2020 and after, such as for new locations or new degrees, should consult with their Commission staff liaison as to whether the visit is still required under the new *Policies and Procedures*; if the visit is no longer required, staff will assist the school in requesting an exemption to the visit from the Board.

Explanation

Many schools have inquired about how and when the new *Standards of Accreditation* and the new *Policies and Procedures* will be implemented. Of particular concern are the 70 some schools who will host visits from fall 2020 through spring 2022. In addition, as of spring 2020, the Board has required more than 300 reports that are due after June 2020 (through November 2025), of which 111 are either for experiments (16) or exceptions (95). Four of the 16 reports on experiments and all 95 of the reports on exceptions are related to requirements that no longer apply under the proposed standards, so those 99 reports are being waived (see sections A.3-4 above).