

Grandfathering Procedures for Implementing New ATS Commission *Standards of Accreditation* and New *Policies and Procedures* (10 February 2020)

On January 30, 2020, the ATS Board of Commissioners adopted the following procedures regarding the grandfathering of new *Standards of Accreditation* and new *Policies and Procedures* after June 2020—to be implemented **if** those two documents are adopted by the membership on June 25, 2020.

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 petition for substantive change submitted to the Commission before July 2020 *must* follow the current *Standards* and *Procedures*.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Any school with a required report related to an *exception* with a due date after June 2020 will be notified by September 1, 2020, whether or not the Board has waived that report [e.g., if the membership in June 2020 approves standards with more flexible admissions and residency requirements, reports on exceptions related to those two issues would likely be waived].

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. [The new *Policies and Procedures* propose renaming “notation” as “warning” and eliminating 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 will be posted on the ATS website by July 15, 2020 [more than 60 days before any fall 2020 visit].

D. Regarding focused evaluation visits

1. Schools hosting focused visits related to Board concerns (FVBC) 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 (FVP) 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, even before the first drafts were made public on December 2, 2019. Of particular concern are the 70 some schools who have started or will start the self-study prior to June 2020 and will host visits from fall 2020 through spring 2022. In addition, as of late fall 2019, the Board has required more than 230 reports that are due after June 2020 (through April 2024), of which 17 are for experiments and 85 are for exceptions. Almost all of the 85 reports on exceptions are related to admissions or residency requirements that may no longer apply under the proposed standards released on December 2, 2019, which, of course, are still only proposals. The Board will decide at its June 2020 meeting which exceptions reports to waive (or at least decide the criteria for waiving them), based on a Commission staff study on those reports to be conducted in spring 2020.