

U.S.Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Accrediting Bureau Of Health Education Schools (1969 / 2011)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly* allied health education programs leading to a certificate, diploma, and degrees at the level of the Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Occupational Science, Academic Associate, Baccalaureate and Master's; and the programmatic accreditation of medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, and surgical technology programs, through the Associate degree, including those offered via distance education. The scope extends to the Substantive Change Committee, jointly with the Commission, for decisions on substantive change.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 06/23/2016
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for a period of five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES or the agency) is a national institutional and programmatic accreditor. Its current scope of recognition is the accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education programs and the programmatic accreditation of medical assistant, medical laboratory technician and surgical technology programs, leading to a certificate, diploma, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Occupational Science, Academic Associate degree, or Baccalaureate degree including those offered via distance education. The scope extends to the Substantive Change Committee, jointly with the Commission, for decisions on substantive change.

ABHES accredits 243 institutions and 166 programs. The Secretary's recognition of the agency enables its accredited institutions to seek eligibility to participate in student financial assistance programs administered by the Department of Education under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Consequently, the agency must meet the separate and independent requirements established in the regulations.

Recognition History

The Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES or the agency) received initial recognition in 1969 for its accreditation of private and public medical laboratory technician programs. The agency's recognition has been periodically reviewed and continued recognition has been granted after each review. In 1974, the agency was granted an expansion of scope to include the accreditation of medical assistant programs in the private sector. In 1982, the agency received notice it was granted another expansion of scope for the accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions offering allied health education. In 1996, the agency was granted an expansion of scope to accredit institutions and programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science and the Associate of Occupational Science degrees. In 1999, the agency received notice it was granted an expansion of scope to accredit institutions offering predominantly allied health education programs. In 2004, the agency received notice it was granted an expansion of scope to include the programmatic accreditation of surgical technology programs. In 2007, the agency received notice it was granted an expansion of scope to accredit institutions and programs leading to the Academic Associate degree and programs offered via distance education. In 2012, ABHES received notice the agency's scope was extended to the Substantive Change Committee for decisions on substantive change.

The last full review of the agency was conducted at the June 2011 National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee) meeting, at which the Committee recommended and the Secretary concurred that the agency's recognition be renewed for five years and that it submit an interim report addressing the issues identified in the staff analysis. Upon successful completion of that review, the agency is now under review for its renewal petition and supporting documentation. Since

the agency's last review, the Department has received one complaint and no third party comments. Department staff conducted a site visit with the agency in March 2016.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.