

Name: Accrediting Bureau Of Health Education Schools	Meeting Date: 02/22/2017	Response Submit Date: 12/12/2016	Status: Final Review	Type: Expansion of Scope
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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
2. **Action Item:** Expansion of Scope
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:** 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, Baccalaureate degree and Master's degree, including those offered via distance education. The scope extends to the Substantive Change Committee, jointly with the Commission, for decisions on substantive change.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** February 22, 2017
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Approve the agency's request for an expansion of scope to include master's degrees.
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 2016 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. The agency is seeking to expand its scope to include Master's degrees and that is the reason for this petition.

*Note for agency's scope: Predominantly is defined by the agency in the following way: It is an educational institution that offers programs predominantly in the health education field. An institution meets this requirement if (a) 70 percent or greater of its full-time equivalent students are enrolled in health programs, or (b) 70 percent of its active programs are in the health education field, provided that a majority of an institution's full-time equivalent students are enrolled in those programs. A program is active if it has a current student enrollment and is seeking to enroll students.

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.