

Day 5: Did you know that CMU must prepare responses as part of its compliance with the U.S. Department of Education requirements in order to offer federal financial aid?

As part of the Higher Learning Commission's comprehensive evaluation process, Colorado Mesa is required to submit a Federal Compliance Report. The purpose of the report is described by the Commission in its *2017 Resource Guide* (p. 38): "As a federally recognized accrediting agency, HLC is required to assure that all of its member institutions are meeting their Title IV program responsibilities as well as complying with the expectations of specific regulations accreditors must enforce as a part of their recognition by the U.S. Department of Education. Compliance with these requirements by both institutions and HLC is necessary to ensure that institutions accredited by HLC are eligible for federal financial aid."

Areas covered by the report include:

1. Assignment of Credits, Program Length, and Tuition;
2. Institutional Records of Student Complaints;
3. Publication of Transfer Policies;
4. Practices for Verification of Student Identity;
5. Title IV (federal financial aid) Program Responsibilities;
6. Required Information for Students and the Public;
7. Advertising and Recruitment Materials and Other Public Information;
8. Review of Student Outcome Data;
9. Publication of Student Outcome Data;
10. Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies;
11. Public Notification of Opportunity to Comment; and
12. Competency-Based Programs.

While on campus, the peer reviewers might ask for additional information in order to verify that the Federal Compliance Report submitted by CMU is both accurate and complete. The reviewers must document that they have conducted a thorough review of the institution's compliance with federal requirements. A Federal Compliance reviewer evaluates the institution's Federal Compliance materials in advance of the visit and refers any issues to the visiting team for further exploration and confirmation.

To learn more, log into MAVzone and click on the document link found in the CMU Assurance Argument for HLC channel (top left on the Home tab). Click on the CMU Federal Compliance Report for the full text. Supporting evidence, including the 22 appendices, are not available through the PDF version.

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