

26. Policy on Pilot Programs

The DETC Accrediting Commission will consider suspension of certain policies and grant approval to a limited number of applicants which propose innovative pilot programs that contribute to strengthen the institution, its education and training, and benefit its students. The Commission may use the experience gained from such pilot projects to adjust and improve its accrediting programs.

Eligibility: An applicant for a pilot program must be accredited by the DETC Accrediting Commission. An applicant for a pilot program must be an institution in good standing with DETC, and its proposed pilot program must also be in compliance with federal, state, and local law.

Application: The Commission will consider an application for a pilot program in accordance with the educational significance of the proposal and the potential for contribution to the development of education and training and of accrediting standards. A determination by the Commission not to accept an application for a pilot program will be without prejudice to its resubmission at a later time or to the institution's current accredited status.

Action

Documents for Submission: An applicant for a pilot program must submit the following:

1. A narrative statement demonstrating the applicant's eligibility and describing the pilot program in detail, and setting forth the accreditation standards for which a waiver is requested. The narrative should include a description of the specific objectives sought to be accomplished and an explanation of how the pilot program will strengthen the institution, contribute to the development of its education and training, and benefit students.
2. A statement of the length of time necessary to implement the pilot program proposal and to assess its effectiveness. This statement should explain the basis of the institution's projections.
3. A demonstration that the faculty, instructional material, equipment, and facilities that will be used in conjunction with the pilot program are sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposal. This demonstration must include Staff and Faculty Personnel Reports for all persons who will act in an instructional or administrative capacity in the pilot program and a detailed description of the instructional materials, equipment, and facilities that may be used.
4. A projection of the number of students expected to enroll and complete the training; and the basis for the applicant's projections.
5. An explanation of how the applicant will recruit and admit students, ensure that students are fully and accurately informed about the training to be provided, and determined that students have the capability to benefit from and succeed at the training. The institution must demonstrate that students' health, safety, and welfare will be protected.
6. A financial showing that describes the funding for the pilot program and demonstrates that the applicant is able to support and complete the pilot program.

7. A certification statement, signed by the applicant that the information included in the application for a pilot program is true and correct.

Evaluation: Upon the receipt of the above information, the Commission will require an on-site visit to verify the information supplied and to develop a further understanding of the pilot program. The findings of the evaluator(s) will be set forth in a report that will be provided to the applicant and the Commission. The applicant will have the opportunity to respond to the report.

Commission Review: Upon consideration of the information provided, the findings and assessment described in “Evaluation.” above, and the applicant’s response to the findings, the Commission may grant approval for the proposed pilot program if it finds that the program can be reasonably expected to strengthen the institution, its education and training, and benefit its students. The Commission reserves the right to limit the duration of the pilot program and the number of students who will be allowed to participate. The Commission may establish such other terms and conditions upon any approval granted under the pilot program as it deems appropriate. The Commission will establish an appropriate fee to cover the costs associated with each pilot program.

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