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The National Advisory Committee on
Institutional Quality and Integrity

What is it?

NACIQI is an independent bipartisan advisory body mandated by the Higher Education Act.

What does it do?

NACIQI reviews 62 accrediting agencies at least once every five years to ensure academic quality and determine if they should hold their status as an accreditor. After reviewing an accreditor, NACIQI makes a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on whether the agency should continue to accredit colleges and universities. Accreditors determine which institutions can access taxpayer dollars, so if they lose their recognition, they can no longer approve schools for access to those funds.

When does it meet?

NACIQI meets twice a year in the summer (usually July) and the winter (usually February).

Who makes up its membership?

NACIQI has 18 members who serve six-year terms – six appointed by the Secretary of Education, six appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and six appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

What's used in a NACIQI review?

NACIQI looks at a Department of Education (Department) report on each accreditor, the accreditor's recognition or renewal application, submitted public comments, and any responses to the materials from the accreditor.

What if NACIQI doesn't approve an accreditor's application?

Accreditors not approved by NACIQI can see their recognition status limited, suspended, or terminated if they fail to comply with federal criteria for recognition. If NACIQI and the Department believe the accreditor can come into compliance, they can continue their recognition but require a compliance report. Accreditors are the gatekeepers of taxpayer dollars and if their recognition is terminated, they can no longer greenlight institutions to access those funds.



THIRD WAY