

NCATE 7-YEAR ACCREDITATION CYCLE

In March 2003, the NCATE Unit Accreditation Board (UAB) changed the accreditation cycle from five to seven years for continuing accreditation at institutions that met NCATE's performance standards. Some states have chosen to remain on a 5-year cycle as indicated on the list that follows this narrative explanation.

A five-year cycle remains for institutions granted first accreditation status.

BACKGROUND

Prior to 2003, accreditation visits were based on a five-year cycle—a pattern that was followed since the reform of NCATE in the mid-1980s. The five-year cycle consistent was with that of almost all states with which partnerships were being developed at that time (the only exception was California, which had a six-year cycle). For the decade prior to 1985, NCATE conducted interim reviews by a small team at the five-year point. A decision would be made to conduct either a full visit in two or five years. In the 1970s and earlier, accreditation reviews were conducted every 10 years.

Most other national accrediting organizations operate on a seven-, eight-, or ten-year cycle. NCATE believed the time was right to establish a five-year cycle to be more aligned with the review cycles of other accrediting agencies and because there no longer appeared to be a significant difference between first and continuing visits conducted every five years from 1994 through 2001.

CONDITIONS OF THE 7-YEAR ACCREDITATION CYCLE

Institutions not reviewed under NCATE's performance standards are expected to host a visit based on the previously established five-year schedule.

The specific dates of next visits are negotiated with NCATE's state partners.

NCATE maintains partnerships in states unable to change to a seven-year cycle.

When one level of the unit receives continuing accreditation and a new level is accredited for the first time, the next accreditation visit will be in seven years if the state agency has agreed to a seven-year cycle of reviews.

The first visit after a probationary visit at one or both levels will be scheduled five years after the probationary visit. Units on probation are treated as a unit seeking accreditation for the first time. Therefore, the next visit must be scheduled in five years.

A seven-year review cycle does not imply that accredited institutions are not regularly monitored by NCATE. Current technology allows annual data collection from accredited institutions. These data are scrutinized by NCATE for any major changes that may call into question whether the institution continues to meet NCATE standards. The data could "trigger" a review by a special NCATE committee and an on-site visit could be conducted before the regularly scheduled visit to reconsider the institution's accreditation status.

STATUS OF 7-YEAR ACCREDITATION REVIEW CYCLES BY STATE
January 18, 2006

The following states have agreed to move to a seven-year cycle:

Arkansas	North Carolina - will move to a 7-year cycle after institutions have been accredited under the new NC standards
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	North Dakota
Connecticut	Nebraska
Delaware	Nevada
District of Columbia	New Hampshire (non-partner state)
Florida	New Jersey
Georgia	New Mexico
Guam (non-partner state)	New York
Hawaii	Ohio
Idaho	Oklahoma
Illinois	Oregon
Indiana	Pennsylvania - the state will remain on a 5-year cycle, but NCATE institutions can move to 7-year cycle
Kansas	South Carolina
Kentucky	South Dakota
Louisiana	Tennessee
Maine	Texas
Maryland – institutions will move to a 7-year cycle after their visit under the new Maryland standards	Utah
Michigan	Vermont (non-partner state)
Minnesota	Virginia
Missouri	Washington
Montana	Wisconsin
	West Virginia
	Wyoming

The following states have chosen to retain the five-year cycle for NCATE/state visits:

Alabama	Mississippi
Iowa	Puerto Rico
Massachusetts	

A response has not been received from the following states:

Alaska	Rhode Island
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