

## Part 201 Chapter 3: General Provisions (GP)

*Introduction.* Each institution that seeks authorization as specified in § 37-101-241, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall supply a detailed statement of how it is meeting or proposes to meet the standards delineated in Part 201 Chapter 4 Standards and Regulations and the provisions of Part 201 Chapter 3 General Provisions.

No academic degree-granting institution shall operate in the State without first receiving approval from the Commission on College Accreditation (MCCA or commission). Registration with the Secretary of State shall not constitute State authority, accreditation or approval to grant degrees or offer courses and programs leading to academic degrees.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.1 For general purpose institutions.*

*Rule 3.1.1* The commission recognizes the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accrediting commission. At minimum, an institution which holds official accreditation by the SACSCOC will be considered for full authorization with the commission. Each general purpose institution that has full SACSCOC accreditation must supply the commission with documentation of its SACSCOC accreditation status. Authorization will be reviewed annually and a list of institutions and their relationship to the commission shall be published annually after July 1.

*Rule 3.1.2* The commission will consider applications for MCCA authorization from academic degree-granting institutions located outside Mississippi provided, however, the following conditions are met by the applicant institution:

*Rule 3.1.2.1* The applicant institution is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies\*; and

*Rule 3.1.2.2* Evidence is provided by the applicant institution that the course/program cannot be met by existing higher education institutions in Mississippi.

*\*(1) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; (2) Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education; (3) New England Association of Schools and Colleges; (4) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Higher Learning Commission; (5) Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; and (6) Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WC/WJ).*

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.2 For Bible colleges.*

*Rule 3.2.1* The commission recognizes the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) accrediting commission. At minimum, an institution which holds official accreditation by ABHE will be considered for full authorization by the commission. Each Bible college that has full ABHE accreditation must supply the commission with documentation of its ABHE accreditation status.

*Rule 3.2.2* Authorization will be reviewed annually and a list of institutions and their relationship to the commission shall be published annually after July 1.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.3 For theological seminaries.*

*Rule 3.3.1* The commission recognizes the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accrediting commission. At minimum, an institution which holds official accreditation by ATS will be considered for full authorization by the commission. Each theological seminary that has full ATS accreditation must supply the commission with documentation of its ATS accreditation status.

*Rule 3.3.2* Authorization will be reviewed annually and a list of institutions and their relationship to the commission shall be published annually after July 1.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.4.* Colleges and universities for which commission regulations, standards, policies, procedures and provisions do not apply include those colleges and universities that are under the authority of the Mississippi Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration or other approval boards and agencies listed at § 75-60-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.5* Authorization will be reviewed annually and a list of institutions and their relationship to the commission shall be published annually after July 1.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended).*

*Rule 3.6* Provisional authorization may be granted to the institution which has been in operation five (5) or more years that has made application to MCCA and is progressing toward accreditation with a commission-recognized accrediting agency. Provisional authorization may also be granted to the institution that is located outside Mississippi, which is accredited by a commission-recognized accrediting agency. The institution must continually demonstrate that it

meets/can meet commission standards, regulations, provisions, procedures and policies. Provisional authorization may be granted for a period not to exceed three (3) years.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended)*.

*Rule 3.7* Conditional authorization may be granted to an institution that has been in operation less than five (5) years; the commission will evaluate the extent of the institution's compliance with SR 4.2.5 (Resources and Stability), SR 4.2.10, and 4.2.11 (Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Size), and SR 4.2.12 (Programs/Curricula) and the institution's potential for achieving authorization and accreditation. If conditional approval is granted, the institution must submit to the commission documentation and a plan and time line for complying with all commission standards, regulations, procedures, provisions and policies and completing the accreditation process with a commission-recognized accrediting agency. Conditional authorization may be granted for a period not to exceed three (3) years.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended)*.

*Rule 3.8* A commission-appointed evaluation team may visit the institution if deemed necessary by the commission, and shall visit the institution along with any commission-recognized accrediting agency during each of its site visits to the institution. Said visits shall be at the expense of the institution.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended)*.

*Rule 3.9* Each institution with conditional or provisional authorization must supply the commission with, at minimum, an annual progress report no later than April 1 and copies of any correspondence received from any accrediting agency. Other documents including site visit reports and documents commonly included as part of the accreditation process must be made available upon request by the commission. The commission may request more frequent progress reports.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended)*.

*Rule 3.10.* Each institution holding full authorization must notify the commission within thirty (30) days regarding requests to any accrediting agencies for substantive changes, and must provide copies of any correspondence received from any accrediting agency stating formal action taken by the accrediting agency.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241 (1972, as amended)*.