GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE, INC.

Diverse Traditions. Shared Standards. Global Excellence.

STANDARDS MUST BE DEMONSTRATED

Evidence expectations for accreditation and quality assurance

Accreditation is based on what an institution can demonstrate through reliable evidence - not only on what it states in policies, marketing, or narrative responses.

Purpose

This public guide explains GCTEQA's expectation that applicable accreditation standards be demonstrated through current, authentic, relevant, and sufficient evidence. A written policy may establish intent, but where implementation can reasonably be shown, GCTEQA expects evidence that the policy is actually in use.

What Demonstration Means

- **Current:** evidence reflects present operations or the period under review.
- **Authentic:** documents and records can be reasonably verified.
- **Relevant:** evidence directly supports the criterion being evaluated.
- **Sufficient:** the record is adequate to support a professional finding.
- **Implemented:** policies are supported by practice, records, outcomes, or other proof when appropriate.
- **Consistent:** internal records, public statements, catalogs, websites, and student-facing information do not materially conflict.

How GCTEQA Evaluates Demonstration

Finding	Meaning
Met	Evidence demonstrates satisfactory compliance with the applicable criterion.
Partially Met	Some required elements are present, but improvement or additional evidence is needed.
Not Met	Evidence does not demonstrate satisfactory compliance.
Not Applicable	The criterion does not reasonably apply to the institution's approved scope or model.

Examples of Demonstrated Compliance

- A governance policy is supported by board minutes, conflict disclosures, and documented oversight.
- A curriculum policy is supported by program maps, course outlines, learning outcomes, assessments, and approval records.
- A financial policy is supported by budgets, statements, internal controls, and evidence of monitoring.
- A student-support statement is supported by procedures, records, service documentation, and learner communications.
- A technology plan is supported by LMS records, security procedures, backup practices, and continuity evidence.
- A public-status statement is supported by the institution's actual legal and accreditation record.

The Demonstration Cycle

Stage	What the Institution Shows
1. Claim	What the institution says it does.
2. Evidence	Documents, records, data, or other proof supporting the claim.
3. Implementation	Evidence that the policy or process is actually in use.
4. Results	Outcomes, monitoring, findings, or performance information.
5. Improvement	Actions taken when results show a need for change.

Institution Preparation Checklist

- Match each claim to specific supporting evidence.
- Use the institution's exact legal and public names consistently.
- Resolve contradictions among policies, websites, catalogs, and records.
- Redact unnecessary sensitive personal information.
- Organize evidence so reviewers can trace each item to the applicable standard.
- Be prepared to provide clarification, interviews, demonstrations, or additional records when reasonably requested.

A single finding does not automatically determine the final accreditation decision. GCTEQA considers the seriousness, pattern, risk, student impact, institutional capacity, and full review record.

Public Notice: This guide summarizes GCTEQA evidence expectations. The controlling requirements are the current GCTEQA Accreditation Standards Manual and applicable policies. GCTEQA accreditation is an independent private quality-assurance designation and does not itself establish governmental authorization, U.S. federal student-aid eligibility, professional licensure eligibility, guaranteed transfer of credit, or guaranteed acceptance of credentials.