GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE, INC.

Diverse Traditions. Shared Standards. Global Excellence.

ACCREDITATION DECISIONS

Evidence-based review, independent judgment, and documented outcomes

Accreditation decisions are based on applicable GCTEQA standards, documented evidence, professional evaluation, institutional response, and independent decision-making.

Decision-Making Principles

- **Evidence-based:** findings are grounded in verifiable information and published standards.
- **Independent:** decision-makers must be free from disqualifying conflicts and improper influence.
- **Consistent:** comparable facts are evaluated under comparable standards and procedures.
- **Mission-sensitive:** institutional mission and model are respected without weakening quality expectations.
- **Proportionate:** seriousness, scope, persistence, student impact, and risk are considered.
- **Documented:** material findings, recusals, deliberations, votes, and decisions are preserved.

How a Decision Is Reached

Stage	What Happens
1. Evaluation	Reviewers examine evidence, conduct interviews or demonstrations when appropriate, and record standard-by-standard findings.
2. Reviewer Report	The review team prepares a written evaluation report with strengths, concerns, findings, and follow-up recommendations.
3. Institutional Response	Before final adverse action, the institution ordinarily has an opportunity to identify factual errors and respond to material findings.
4. Decision Packet	The decision body receives the review record, findings, institutional response, scope, material risks, conflict/recusal information, and monitoring recommendations.
5. Independent Deliberation	Eligible decision-makers consider the complete record and applicable standards.
6. Vote and Written Notice	Authorized action is taken under quorum and voting requirements, followed by written notice of the decision, scope, term, conditions, and review rights where applicable.

Types of Accreditation Decisions

Decision	Meaning
Grant Accreditation	The institution demonstrates satisfactory compliance and receives accreditation for the scope and term stated in the decision notice.
Grant Accreditation with Monitoring	Accreditation is active, but specified reports, conditions, corrective actions, or monitoring are required.

Decision	Meaning
Defer Decision	Additional evidence, clarification, corrective action, or review is required before a final decision can be made.
Deny Accreditation	The institution has not demonstrated sufficient compliance for initial accreditation.
Reaffirm / Renew Accreditation	An accredited institution demonstrates sufficient continuing compliance for a new term.
Probation / Show Cause	Significant concerns require corrective action and a demonstration of why accreditation should continue.
Suspend Accreditation	Accreditation is temporarily restricted or inactive under applicable policy.
Withdraw Accreditation	Accreditation ends under applicable voluntary or involuntary procedures.

No Automatic Numerical Outcome

GCTEQA findings support professional judgment but do not operate as a simple numerical score. Decision-makers consider the significance and pattern of findings, legal and student-protection risk, institutional capacity, corrective action, and the full review record.

Conflicts, Quorum, and Independence

Decision-makers must disclose actual, potential, or perceived conflicts. A person with a disqualifying conflict must recuse from the matter. Institutional accreditation decisions require a properly constituted decision body, and fees, donations, consulting relationships, prestige, personal influence, or business considerations may not determine the outcome.

> **Payment of fees, completion of a self-study, participation in review, or favorable reviewer comments do not guarantee accreditation.**

Public Notice: This guide summarizes the GCTEQA Accreditation Decision-Making & Review Policy. The current policy and related appeals/review procedures control.