GCTEQA

GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE, INC.

ACCREDITATION RENEWAL & REAFFIRMATION POLICY

2026 Public Policy Edition

Continuing Quality. Continuing Accountability. Reaffirmed Confidence.

Public procedures governing renewal of accredited status, reaffirmation review, evidence, deadlines, and continuing compliance.

Document Control

Policy Title	Accreditation Renewal & Reaffirmation Policy
Organization	Global Commission for Theological Education & Quality Assurance, Inc. (GCTEQA)
Edition	2026 Public Policy Edition
Applies To	Institutions holding active GCTEQA accreditation and seeking continuation beyond the current term
Policy Owner	Board of Directors / Accreditation Governance Function
Review Cycle	At least annually or when accreditation renewal procedures materially change

Core Principle
Accreditation is not permanent. Reaffirmation is based on current evidence that the institution continues to meet applicable GCTEQA standards, has addressed prior requirements, remains legally and operationally sound, and demonstrates an ongoing culture of quality and continuous improvement.

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the process by which an institution holding GCTEQA accreditation seeks renewal or reaffirmation before the end of its current accreditation term. The process is designed to verify continuing compliance, assess material changes, evaluate institutional improvement, and determine whether accreditation should continue.

2. Reaffirmation Is a New Quality Review

Renewal is not automatic and is not based solely on an institution's prior accreditation history. An institution seeking reaffirmation must demonstrate current compliance with the standards, policies, and public-disclosure requirements in effect for the renewal review.

- Prior accreditation does not guarantee reaffirmation.
- Payment of renewal or review fees does not guarantee reaffirmation.
- Past satisfactory performance does not excuse current deficiencies.
- A history of unresolved monitoring, repeated deficiencies, or material nondisclosure may affect the renewal decision.

3. Accreditation Term

Each institution's accreditation term is stated in its official GCTEQA accreditation decision notice or public verification record. GCTEQA may establish different terms based on review type, institutional circumstances, monitoring needs, or applicable policy.

An institution is responsible for knowing its expiration or review date and beginning renewal early enough to complete the process before the current term ends.

4. Renewal Planning Timeline

GCTEQA generally encourages institutions to begin formal renewal planning approximately twelve (12) months before the expiration or scheduled reaffirmation date.

Suggested Timing	Institutional Action
Approximately 12 months before term end	Review current standards and policies; confirm institutional renewal contact; identify material changes and outstanding monitoring.
Approximately 9 months before term end	Submit renewal/reaffirmation application and required preliminary updates when requested.
Approximately 6 months before term end	Submit updated self-study and principal evidence package unless GCTEQA provides a different schedule.
Approximately 3-6 months before term end	Participate in reviewer evaluation, interviews, virtual/site review, and factual-response process as applicable.
Before current term ends	GCTEQA seeks to complete the reaffirmation decision when the institution has met deadlines and the record is complete.

These timeframes are planning guidelines unless a specific GCTEQA notice establishes binding deadlines.

5. Notice of Upcoming Reaffirmation

GCTEQA may send a renewal reminder or reaffirmation notice before the end of an institution's term. Failure to receive a reminder does not relieve the institution of responsibility for timely renewal.

The institution must maintain current contact information with GCTEQA and promptly notify GCTEQA of changes to its chief executive officer, accreditation liaison, legal name, or primary contact information.

6. Renewal Application

The renewal application may require updated information concerning:

- Institutional legal name, locations, website, and contact information
- Current governing body and executive leadership
- Current programs, credentials, degree levels, and delivery methods
- Enrollment and completion information
- Legal authorization, exemptions, registrations, or approvals
- Financial condition and sustainability
- Faculty and staffing
- Student services and records systems
- Technology and online learning
- Complaints, litigation, regulatory matters, and material risks
- Substantive changes since the prior accreditation decision

- Prior GCTEQA monitoring, conditions, or corrective-action requirements

7. Updated Self-Study

The institution must ordinarily complete a current self-study addressing all applicable GCTEQA standards. The renewal self-study should demonstrate both present compliance and meaningful development since the prior accreditation review.

The institution should address:

- Current compliance with each applicable standard
- Significant accomplishments during the accreditation term
- Material institutional changes
- Challenges or weaknesses identified and actions taken
- Assessment results and evidence of improvement
- Status of prior recommendations, monitoring, or corrective actions
- Changes in legal authority, governance, finance, programs, students, personnel, or technology
- Priorities for the next accreditation term

8. Renewal Evidence

Reaffirmation is evidence-based. GCTEQA may require updated evidence from all twelve standards and may place additional emphasis on areas affected by significant change or prior findings.

- Current legal and authorization records
- Current bylaws, governance records, board roster, and organizational chart
- Recent board minutes demonstrating active oversight
- Current financial statements, budget, and sustainability information
- Current catalogs, programs, curricula, assessment plans, and learning outcomes
- Current faculty/staff roster and credential evidence
- Admissions, student services, complaints, refund, and records policies
- Technology, privacy, security, backup, and continuity documentation
- Assessment results and continuous-improvement evidence
- Current public accreditation and authorization disclosures
- Evidence responding to prior monitoring or conditions

9. Review of Continuing Compliance History

GCTEQA considers the institution's conduct throughout the accreditation term, not only documents submitted at renewal.

- Annual compliance reports
- Monitoring reports
- Substantive-change submissions
- Complaint history relevant to accreditation standards
- Timeliness and accuracy of required reporting
- Public representation of accreditation status
- Compliance with prior conditions and deadlines
- Material legal or regulatory developments

10. Material Changes Since Initial Accreditation

An institution must identify substantive or material changes that occurred during the current term. GCTEQA may determine whether each change was properly reported and whether the institution remains capable of sustaining the expanded or altered scope.

Failure to report a required substantive change may itself constitute a compliance concern during reaffirmation.

11. Reaffirmation Review Team

GCTEQA may assign one or more qualified reviewers to conduct the renewal evaluation. Reviewer selection, conflicts, recusals, evidence evaluation, and confidentiality are governed by applicable GCTEQA policies.

Where appropriate, the review team may include persons with expertise relevant to the institution's mission, degree levels, delivery model, finances, governance, technology, or theological/religious education.

12. Evaluation Methods

GCTEQA may use one or more of the following:

- Document and evidence review
- Updated standard-by-standard evaluation
- Leadership and governance interviews
- Faculty, staff, or student interviews where appropriate
- Virtual institutional review
- On-site review when necessary or required
- Learning-management-system or technology demonstration
- Focused review of previously identified concerns
- Financial or legal-status verification

13. Standard-by-Standard Findings

Reviewers evaluate applicable standards using GCTEQA's published findings framework: Met, Partially Met, Not Met, or Not Applicable.

Reaffirmation is not determined by a simple numerical score. The decision considers the seriousness, pattern, persistence, risk, and institutional effect of findings.

14. Institutional Response

Before final adverse action, the institution will ordinarily have an opportunity to identify material factual errors and respond to significant findings under the GCTEQA Accreditation Decision-Making & Review Policy.

GCTEQA may permit limited supplemental evidence when necessary to clarify the record or verify corrective action before the reaffirmation decision.

15. Reaffirmation Decisions

Reaffirm Accreditation

The institution demonstrates satisfactory continuing compliance and receives a new accreditation term.

Reaffirm with Monitoring

Accreditation continues, but the institution must complete specified reporting, corrective action, or focused review.

Defer Reaffirmation Decision

Additional evidence, verification, corrective action, or review is required before a final decision.

Probation / Show Cause

Significant compliance concerns require heightened oversight and a formal response before accreditation can continue without restriction.

Suspend Accreditation

Accreditation is temporarily restricted or inactive under applicable policy.

Decline Reaffirmation / Withdraw Accreditation

The institution has not demonstrated sufficient continuing compliance for accreditation to continue.

16. New Accreditation Term

When accreditation is reaffirmed, the official decision notice states the effective date, term, approved scope, monitoring requirements, and next review or expiration date.

The length of a reaffirmed term may vary according to institutional circumstances and GCTEQA policy.

17. Renewal with Monitoring

GCTEQA may reaffirm accreditation while requiring additional monitoring when the institution substantially meets standards but has defined areas requiring follow-up.

Monitoring may include:

- Progress reports
- Corrective-action plans
- Focused evidence submissions
- Financial reports
- Enrollment or completion data
- Governance or leadership updates
- Program-specific review
- Virtual or on-site follow-up

18. Deferred Reaffirmation

A reaffirmation decision may be deferred when the record is insufficient or when specified corrective action can reasonably be completed within a defined period.

A deferral is not a guarantee of reaffirmation. The written notice will state the institution's interim status, required evidence, deadlines, and consequences of noncompliance.

19. Late Renewal

An institution that fails to begin or complete renewal by required deadlines may be subject to late fees, accelerated review, additional monitoring, expiration, or other action.

GCTEQA may decline to extend a term merely because the institution submitted renewal materials late.

20. Expiration Before Final Renewal Decision

Accreditation does not automatically remain active beyond the expiration date stated in the institution's official record.

When a renewal review is timely and substantially complete but cannot be decided before the current term ends for reasons not attributable to the institution, GCTEQA may issue a written temporary continuation or extension. No continuation exists unless GCTEQA issues it in writing.

21. Failure to Renew

An institution that does not seek renewal, withdraws its renewal application, or fails to complete required renewal steps may allow its accreditation to expire.

Upon expiration, the institution must stop representing itself as currently accredited and comply with the GCTEQA Accreditation Status & Public Disclosure Policy.

22. Reaffirmation After Significant Noncompliance

If renewal review identifies serious or systemic noncompliance, GCTEQA may take an accreditation action appropriate to the risk, including probation, show cause, suspension, denial of reaffirmation, or withdrawal.

The institution will receive applicable notice and appeal rights under GCTEQA policy.

23. Appeal Rights

Eligible adverse renewal or reaffirmation decisions may be appealed under the GCTEQA Complaints & Appeals Policy. The written decision notice will identify whether the decision is appealable and the applicable deadline.

24. Public Representation During Renewal

An institution undergoing renewal must continue to represent its status according to the official GCTEQA public record.

- An institution may state that it is undergoing reaffirmation when accurate.
- Pending renewal does not permit an institution to alter or extend its stated accreditation term on its own.
- An institution may not claim that reaffirmation is guaranteed.

- If accreditation expires, is suspended, or is withdrawn during renewal, public materials must be updated as required by GCTEQA policy.

25. Renewal Fees

Renewal, reaffirmation, evaluation, site-review, monitoring, or other fees may apply under the current GCTEQA fee schedule.

Fees support review and administrative costs and do not purchase reaffirmation or any particular accreditation outcome.

Reaffirmation cannot be purchased.

26. Institution's Duty to Maintain Compliance During Renewal

The institution remains responsible for full continuing compliance while renewal is pending. It must continue required annual reporting, substantive-change reporting, public disclosures, student protections, and monitoring obligations.

27. Records

GCTEQA shall maintain renewal applications, self-studies, evidence, reviewer reports, decision records, monitoring requirements, and related materials in accordance with its document-retention and confidentiality policies.

28. Policy Administration and Revision

This policy is administered through GCTEQA's authorized accreditation and governance functions. GCTEQA may revise renewal procedures through its established governance processes and will communicate material changes when appropriate.

APPENDIX A - REAFFIRMATION READINESS CHECKLIST

[ ] Current accreditation term and expiration/review date have been verified.

[ ] Institutional contact information is current with GCTEQA.

[ ] All annual compliance reports have been submitted.

[ ] All monitoring or corrective-action requirements are complete or on schedule.

[ ] All substantive changes have been properly reported.

[ ] Legal authorization, registrations, exemptions, and approvals are current.

[ ] Governance documents and board roster are current.

[ ] Current budget, financial statements, and sustainability planning are available.

[ ] Program catalog, curricula, outcomes, and assessment materials are current.

[ ] Faculty and staff credentials are verified.

[ ] Student handbook, admissions, refunds, complaints, and records policies are current.

[ ] Technology, privacy, security, backup, and continuity documentation are current.

[ ] Assessment results demonstrate institutional improvement.

[ ] Website and public accreditation statements have been reviewed for accuracy.

[ ] The institution is prepared to complete an updated self-study against all applicable standards.

APPENDIX B - RENEWAL / REAFFIRMATION APPLICATION

This form may be used by an accredited institution to begin formal reaffirmation review.

Institution Legal Name: _____

Public / DBA Name: _____

GCTEQA Institution ID: _____

Current Accreditation Term: _____

Current Expiration / Review Date: _____

Chief Executive Officer: _____

Accreditation Liaison: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Website: _____

Current Institutional Scope

[ ] Campus-Based

[ ] Online / Distance

[ ] Hybrid

[ ] Non-Degree / Continuing Education

[ ] Degree-Granting

[ ] Other

Changes Since Last Accreditation Decision

[ ] Ownership or control

[ ] Legal name or legal entity

[ ] Primary location or additional location

[ ] Chief executive or major governance structure

[ ] Degree level(s)

[ ] Significant new programs

[ ] Delivery method

[ ] Financial condition

[ ] Legal or regulatory status

[ ] No material changes

Explain checked changes and identify prior GCTEQA substantive-change submissions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Institutional Certification

I certify that the information submitted for renewal is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the institution will cooperate with GCTEQA's reaffirmation review, continuing-compliance, and public-disclosure requirements.

Authorized Representative: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX C – REAFFIRMATION REVIEW SUMMARY

For GCTEQA review use.

Institution: _____

Review Cycle: _____

Current Term: _____

Review Team / Lead Reviewer: _____

Decision Meeting Date: _____

Standard	Finding	Follow-Up Required?	Notes
Standard 1	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 2	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 3	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 4	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 5	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 6	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 7	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 8	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 9	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 10	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 11	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____
Standard 12	_____	[ ] Yes [ ] No	_____

Recommended Action

[ ] Reaffirm Accreditation

[ ] Reaffirm with Monitoring

[ ] Defer Decision

[ ] Probation / Show Cause

[ ] Suspend Accreditation

[ ] Decline Reaffirmation / Withdraw Accreditation

Recommended Term / Review Date: _____

Conditions / Monitoring: _____

Public Status Language: _____

Appeal Rights: _____

Public Reaffirmation Statement

GCTEQA reaffirmation confirms that an institution has undergone a current review under applicable standards and has been granted continued accreditation for the scope and term stated in its official decision. Reaffirmation does not replace governmental authorization, establish federal student financial-aid eligibility, guarantee professional licensure, guarantee transfer of credit, or guarantee acceptance of credentials.

CONTINUING QUALITY. CONTINUING ACCOUNTABILITY. REAFFIRMED CONFIDENCE.

Diverse Traditions. Shared Standards. Global Excellence.

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