

Accreditation Working Group Charter

Functional Lead: Provost

Division: Academic Affairs

Responsible Office: Academic Support Division

1. Purpose. This document outlines the purpose, function, membership, and role of Marine Corps University's (MCU) Accreditation Working Group (AWG), established by the President, MCU during the June 2019 President's Planning Council (PPC).

2. Background. To grant degrees to graduates who meet degree requirements, MCU must be accredited by a civilian academic accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. MCU is accredited by the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award master's degrees through MCWAR, CSC, and SAW and recognize postbaccalaureate educational credit through EWS. Initially granted in 1999, MCU's accreditation was reaffirmed by SACSCOC in 2005, 2015, and 2025 based on MCU's successful demonstration of compliance with SACSCOC's Principles of Accreditation. MCU seeks to maintain its institutional accreditation through the five-year interim report in 2030 and beyond.

3. Purpose and Function. Under the oversight of the Provost, the AWG will serve as a permanent entity coordinating MCU's institutional accreditation efforts to institutionalize those requirements and higher educational best practices throughout MCU's policies, processes, practices, and procedures. The AWG's scope includes the review and evaluation of all MCU activities related to all applicable SACSCOC policies and the Principles of Accreditation to ensure that MCU remains compliant with them on a continuous basis.

4. Membership. AWG membership will consist of the following:

a. Core members: the Director, Academic Support Division (ASD), as MCU's Institutional Accreditation Liaison as Chair; the Deputy Provost; the Director, Institutional Research, Assessments, and Plans; the QEP Director; the MCU Registrar; and the Faculty Development and Outreach Coordinator. These members have significant duties related to the development and implementation of MCU academic and business policies and practices, and assessment thereof, in regard to the requirements of institutional accreditation in general and MCU's current QEP in particular.

b. Extended members: Deans of Marine Corps War College, School of Advanced Warfighting, Command and Staff College, College of Distance Education and Training, Expeditionary Warfare School, and College of Enlisted Military Education, Director of the Leadership and Communication Skills Center, Chair of the Faculty Council, and Deputy Directors of the Lejeune Leadership Institute, History Division/Gray Research Center, and National Museum of the Marine Corps.

c. Adjunct members will be assigned as needed for discrete events, projects, and the like, such as Director designated leads for producing compliance narratives, drafting reports, providing documentary evidence, or developing proposals for a QEP.

d. The Director, ASD will assign an 8802 Education Officer to serve as the AWG Secretary.

e. Other personnel may be required to attend meetings on an as-needed basis.

5. Meeting Schedule. The AWG will meet on a regular basis to review policies, processes, practices, and procedures and recommend changes thereto, review progress in developing compliance narratives or preserving documentation, and provide advice or detailed instructions for resolving issues, or identifying issues requiring referral to the Provost for resolution. The AWG can be called into session on an as-needed basis by the Chair, or as requested by the Provost or the President, MCU. Due to the broad scope of the participating organizational functions, attendance requirements may vary with the meeting agenda; some meetings may be discretionary for certain representatives. Meetings will generally be open to the MCU community.

6. Committees. The AWG may occasionally form subcommittees, cells, and/or teams to address specific needs or concerns. These committees will report findings or recommendations in writing for discussion at the larger AWG meeting. Such reports will be appended to the AWG notes and retained as part of the permanent record.

7. Briefings. The Chair will present AWG concerns and recommendations to governing bodies, such as the Board of Visitors, PPC, or Faculty Council, and to individual leaders, such as President, MCU, the Chief of Staff, Directors or Deans, as appropriate.

8. Review. The Provost will review this Charter annually and make recommendations for changes as needed to meet the AWG's purpose.

Promulgated: 1 Jul 2016

Reviewed: 23 May 2025

Revised: 23 May 2025