



November 25, 2024

Sent to: sywhite@haywood.edu

Dr. Shelley White, President
Haywood Community College
185 Freedlander Drive
Clyde, NC 28721

Re: Change of Accrediting Agency
OPE ID: 00808300

Dear President White:

I am following up on your July 17, 2024 letter to the United States Department of Education (“Department”) about your request for a change of accrediting agencies for the Haywood Community College (“Haywood”). Haywood was most recently reaffirmed in July 2019 by its current accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (“SACSCOC”).

As required by 34 C.F.R. § 600.11(a)(1), as a first step when an institution seeks to change accrediting agencies, it must submit to the Department documents and materials related to its current accreditation or preaccreditation, and all materials demonstrating reasonable cause for such change.

The Department issued guidance relating the requirements of 34 C.F.R § 600.11 in an Electronic Announcement published on August 15, 2016. This guidance reminded institutions of the requirements for the Department’s reasonable cause determination, including the documentation an institution must submit to the Department, and the procedures for submitting such documentation. This guidance was updated by the Department on July 19, 2022, and again on September 26, 2022. See Dear Colleague Letter (“DCL”) [GEN-22-10](#) and [DCL GEN-22-11](#). The purpose of the updated guidance was to ensure that an institution receives the Department’s determination of reasonable cause before it begins “the process of changing its accrediting agency.”

Please submit all of the information and documentation required by GEN-22-11:

Request	Documentation Required	Additional Explanation
A	Any substantive correspondence or other communications with the agency relating to the institution's accreditation status, requests for information, or inquiries since the most recent determination letter.	The submission for this requirement should include all substantive communications with SACSCOC since the 2019 determination letter, ¹ including all information and documents submitted for and received regarding Haywood's Fifth-Year Interim Review.

Please submit these materials to the Department no later than December 13, 2024. To facilitate our review once you provide the materials, please submit each document in a separate pdf. Please identify each document by a name that begins with the date of the document in the form YYYY.MM.DD.

The Department will resume its review of Haywood's request once all materials are received.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions about these requests.

Sincerely,



Christopher Miller

Division Chief

Atlanta School Participation and Financial Analysis Division

¹ As noted in DCL GEN-22-11, “non-substantive communications—such as routine scheduling—do not need to be provided.”