COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

SUMMARY OF RECOGNITION STATUS

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION (ALA-COA)

In accordance with the 2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraph 40, this summary describes the formal action taken by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors with regard to an accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA.

PROFILE OF ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

Type of Accréditor: Programmatic
Number of Programs: 62

Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation:

Accredits master’s programs in library and information studies offered under the degree-granting authority of institutions located in the United States, its territories, possessions, and protectorates and, by agreement with the Canadian Library Association, Canada. (2001)

CHEA RECOGNITION INFORMATION

History: Recognized by CHEA in May 2001

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, April 29-30, 2013
Decision: Recognition for up to ten years

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-COA). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

ALA-COA demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

Prior Actions on ALA-COA’s Application for Recognition

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting January 28, 2013: At its meeting on January 28, 2013, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors accepted information from the CHEA Committee on Recognition that the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-COA) is continuing the process of responding to the July 12, 2012 letter deferring the recognition decision.
CHEA Board of Directors Meeting September 24-25, 2012: The Board of Directors continued to defer recognition as the ALA-COA continues its efforts to provide evidence that programs are implementing ALA-COA’s procedures that call for programs to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures).

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting January 23, 2012: The Board of Directors deferred recognition in order to obtain more substantial evidence that ALA has and implements a specific accreditation standard or policy that requires institutions or programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures).

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