CHEA Arbitration Program

Call for Nominations for Arbitrator Class of 2023 – 2026

About CHEA

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is a Washington, DC-based institutional membership organization established in 1996 by a referendum of college and university presidents. A national advocate and institutional voice for peer review of academic quality through accreditation, CHEA is an association of degree-granting colleges and universities and recognizes approximately sixtyinstitutional and programmatic accrediting organizations.

CHEA is the only national organization devoted exclusively to accreditation, serving as a powerful advocate for the responsible independence of colleges and universities in matters of academic quality. A key function for CHEA is scrutinizing accrediting organizations and certifying or “recognizing” those that meet CHEA’s recognition standards. CHEA also provides a range of services from research to policy analysis to conferences and meetings – all focused on innovative issues for accreditation and institutions as we address future challenges in assuring quality in our colleges and universities.

## **CHEA Arbitration Program**

CHEA has developed an impartial arbitration process to facilitate non-binding arbitration between institutions and accreditors consistent with the statutes and current U.S. Department of Education regulations. Arbitrators are trained by CHEA and are selected by established criteria.

This arbitration process is available to CHEA members, all recognized post-secondary accreditors and accredited institutions to resolve disputes regarding final adverse accrediting decisions.

Federal statutes and the Code of Federal Regulations require accredited institutions to submit any dispute involving the final denial, withdrawal, or termination of accreditation to initial arbitration prior to any other legal action. Accredited institutions may submit any dispute with an accrediting organization following the final appeal of a decision to terminate accreditation. [20 U.S. Code § 1099b - Recognition of accrediting agency or association](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/20/1099b) and 34 CFR § 602.20

## Selection and Training of Arbitrators

The CHEA *Arbitration Selection Committee* will review all applicants, select arbitrators, and notify individuals of selection. The committee will be made up of two existing bodies: The CHEA Committee on Recognition (COR), which will receive and review applications and make recommendations to the CHEA Board of Directors, and the CHEA Board, which will review COR-recommended applications and approve and confirm the final selection of arbitrators.

Nominations

Nominations to become a CHEA arbitrator may be by self-nomination or by another person. Individuals are encouraged to apply if they have the following types of skill sets or experiences: legal expertise and/or experience in compliance and/or arbitration matters; In-depth subject matter expertise in accreditation or similarly regulated fields; a peer evaluator for a CHEA-recognized accrediting organization; an executive member for a CHEA-recognized accrediting organization; member of an accrediting team; General Counsel for an institution; a committee member for a CHEA-recognized accrediting organization. Nominees must have experience in the higher education community; be without any pending or legal criminal activities; be able to travel to D.C. if needed; have competence in the use of technology meeting platforms; and be available for CHEA training. Additional qualifications for nomination are the ability to demonstrate impartiality in reviewing documents and decision-making, and familiarity or knowledge of accreditation processes. CHEA seeks nominations from all geographical regions and encourages nominations from all groups representing a diversity of ethnicities, race, cultures, religious preferences, gender, and sexual orientations.

[Click here](https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Arbitraton-Program-Application-Only.docx) for an electronic nomination form. Self-nominations are accepted.

.