



Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO)

NO. 48 ;

Series of 1996

SUBJECT : UPDATED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT AND/OR RETENTION OF UNIVERSITY STATUS VIS-À-VIS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and to further promote and enhance relevant and quality higher education in the country, the following updated standards and guidelines for the grant and/or retention of university status vis-à-vis Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are hereby adopted and promulgated, thus:

1. Policy. - University status, being a distinctive honor, shall be reserved only for the truly deserving HEIs in the country which have proven their excellence in the areas of instruction, research and extension.

2. Standards and Guidelines in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools. - The provisions contained in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools (8th Edition) relative to the grant and/or retention of university status are hereby made applicable to all HEIs [State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), CHED-Supervised Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs), and Community Colleges (CCs)] except as they are hereinafter updated, revised and/or amended.

3. Updated Standards and Guidelines. - Hereunder are the updated standards and guidelines for the grant and/or retention of university status vis-à-vis HEIs revising and/or amending the particular stipulations in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools anent thereto, thus:

3.1 Degree Programs. The HEI operates, among others, recognized and/or authorized tertiary-level degree programs or courses of studies as follows, viz.:

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[Initials]

3.1.1 A four-year course in liberal arts, a four-year course in the Basic Sciences/Mathematics, and a four-year course in the Social Sciences;

3.1.2 In addition, a minimum of three (3) other active and duly recognized professional courses (a professional course is one which requires special study towards a specific competence and a license to practice); and

3.1.3 At least two (2) graduate-level courses leading to doctoral degrees.

3.2 Accreditation. - The HEI must have a Level III accreditation (or the Commission's equivalent) for at least four (4) of its undergraduate programs (one (1) of which must be in the Arts and one (1) in the Sciences), and for two (2) of its graduate programs).

3.3 Instruction. - The HEI must exhibit a continuing quest for excellence and a commitment to reasonably high standards of instruction through the quality of its educational programs, outstanding achievements of its students, and excellent performance of its graduates particularly in government examinations.

3.4 Research. The HEI must demonstrate a track record of not less than three (3) years in maintaining high research standards as evidenced by a dynamic research program manned by qualified and competent faculty members and supported by an adequate budgetary allocation. The results of these researches must have been published in refereed journals.

3.5 Extension Services. The HEI must have a credible community extension program which may take the form of continuing education, application of research results, community service and the like. Reports of these activities should be made readily available.

3.6 Faculty Requirements. For an HEI to acquire university status, the following initial conditions regarding its faculty must be complied with, to wit:

3.6.1 At least fifty percent (50%) of its faculty in the Arts and Sciences must be full-time;

3.6.2 Of its total faculty, at least twenty percent (20%) must be doctoral degree holders in their respective areas of specialization, half of whom are on full-time, and at least thirty-five percent (35%) must be master's degree holders in their respective areas of specialization, at least seventy percent (70%) of whom are on full-time;

3.6.3 There must be a provision to recognize the specialized skills of its faculty who are nationally and/or internationally renowned; and

3.6.4 The aforementioned must be improved in a span of three (3) years.

3.7 Site and Buildings. The HEI must own its institutional site which should be at least five (5) hectares, at least three (3) hectares of which are contiguous to the main campus. Its buildings should be made of permanent materials constructed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

3.8 Library and Laboratory Facilities and Equipment. The library and laboratory facilities and equipment of the HEI must conform to the standards set by the Commission. In addition and as far as possible, the HEI should also provide its students with access to other library resources and databases through the Internet and other information technology facilities, including CD-ROM devices.

4. Procedure. - An HEI applying for a grant of university status must submit to the Chairman of the Commission (Attention: University Desk) a written application for a change of status attaching therewith its full institutional profile. The Chairman of the Commission shall then assign to a top-level team the task of evaluating the said application in accordance with this CMO and other pertinent rules and regulations.

5. Review. - The standards and guidelines contained herein and the HEI's compliance therewith shall be reviewed every three (3) years from the grant/retention of university status to/of the HEI.

6. Transitory Provision. - Existing universities, except those which have been legislated to be single-track universities, are hereby given five (5) years within which to comply with these updated standards and guidelines.

7. Applicability. - These updated standards and guidelines shall apply only to applications for university status filed after 18 June 1996.

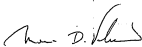
8. Repeal. - All issuances in conflict herewith are hereby deemed revoked, revised, amended and/or repealed accordingly.

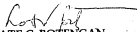
9. Effectivity. - This CMO shall take effect immediately.

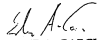
**SO ORDERED.**


Pasig City, Philippines. August 15, 1996

  
ANGEL C. ALCALA  
Chairman

  
MONA D. VALISNO  
Commissioner

  
KATE C. BOTENGAN  
Commissioner

  
ESTER A. GARCIA  
Commissioner

  
ROLANDO S. DELAGOZA  
Commissioner

Copy Furnished:  
All HEROs  
All HEIs (SUCs, CHEIs,  
PHEIs and CCs)