



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – For Information — Effective Immediately: Changes to the Program Assessment Process

March 31, 2022

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) has been working to improve its program assessment process based on feedback received from institutions. We are pleased to announce the following changes, intended to help streamline the process and facilitate a timely decision:

1. **New graduate-level certificate and diploma programs no longer require external reviews prior to submission.**
2. **Program terminations no longer require a proposal to be submitted for assessment.** Institutions are instead requested to provide the MPHEC with an annual list of programs that are no longer admitting students and no longer being offered. (Should a program be terminated as a result of the introduction of a new program, information on the transition from the existing to the new program can be submitted as part of the proposal for the new program.)
3. **Universities now have a maximum allowable time to respond to comments from the system or questions through the Stage I or Stage II Assessment process¹:**
 - a. Questions raised through the distribution process: max. 30 days
 - b. Questions raised during Stage I (MPHEC's QA Team) Assessment: max. 30 days
 - c. Questions raised during Stage II (AAU-MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee) Assessment: by the second QA Committee meeting following the request. (QA Committee meetings are normally held monthly, with the exceptions of July and August.)

The above changes have been approved by the AAU-MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee and the Commission, and will be effective immediately. If you have questions about these changes, or any part of the program assessment process, please contact our office (phone: 506-453-2844; email: mphec@mphec.ca).

¹ Short extensions to the timelines may be granted in exceptional circumstances.