

## **Requirements for the Publication Practices of System-Accredited Universities**

Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated June 10, 2022, as amended on March 19, 2025

This resolution replaces the resolutions “Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” of September 24, 2018 (Drs. AR 108/2018) and “Guidelines for Quality Reports of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” of September 17, 2019 (Drs. AR 91/2020).

### **Preamble**

5 The publication of accreditation data serves to promote transparency both in program and system accreditation, as well as in the internal procedures of higher education institutions that have been granted the right to use the seal of accreditation in the course of a system accreditation or an alternative procedure: prospective students, current students, potential employers, and the interested public can use the publicly available information to

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In this way, quality is made visible to the outside world, thereby fostering trust in the degree programs and the recognition of degrees both nationally and internationally.

The Accreditation Council attaches great importance to ensuring that the transparency requirements for accreditation and the awarding of the Accreditation Council’s seal, as set forth in the state regulations based on the Model Regulation

15, and to inform the interested public about the results of the procedures through easily accessible data. System-accredited institutions of higher education are also entitled to award the seal, so that—especially given the great diversity of accredited higher

20 internal quality management systems—a comparable standard must be applied to the transparency of the procedures and their results.

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<sup>1</sup>The requirements regarding publication obligations for higher education institutions that have obtained the right to award seals through an alternative procedure are regulated in the individual agreements between the respective institution and the Accreditation Council.

## 1. Legal Framework

Pursuant to § 29 MRVO, the Accreditation Council is responsible for publishing accreditation decisions and accreditation reports on its website. For this purpose, the Accreditation Council has established a database in which all accredited

5 lists degree programs and provides an up-to-date overview of all data relevant to accreditation (see section 2). While the Accreditation Council is responsible for data entry in program accreditation, in system accreditation, the entry of data on all internally accredited degree programs pursuant to Section 18(4), Sentence 2 of the Model Statutory Ordinance (MRVO) falls under the responsibility of the system-accredited institutions of higher education. The entries  
10 submitted by the institutions are checked for formal correctness by the Accreditation Council's secretariat and subsequently released to the public. The information is also checked for plausibility on a random basis.

The State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation identifies the promotion of consistent decision-making practices based on specified criteria as one of the central objectives associated with the  
15 new accreditation system (see Explanatory Memorandum to Art. 3(5)). In the opinion of the Accreditation Council, this consistency must also be reflected in the documentation of accreditation decisions. To ensure a consistent and transparent publication practice within the accreditation system in this sense, the Accreditation Council hereby establishes requirements for data entry into the  
20 database of accredited degree programs (see section 2).<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Entry of internally accredited degree programs into the Accreditation Council's database

The Accreditation Council's database generally lists all degree programs  
25 that have ever been accredited. New degree programs submitted for initial accreditation, however, must be entered into the database with the relevant program information and created as new entries.

The following program information must be entered:

- Program name;
  - Degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, Magister, etc.);
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<sup>2</sup> In November 2024, the Conference of Ministers of Science adopted an amendment to the Model Regulation, which regulates publication requirements more precisely than the MRVO (2017). Based on the current legal situation, the Accreditation Council is using this document to align its interpretation of the provisions currently (December 2024) in effect in the federal states with the requirements of the MRVO (2024). This ensures that the changes in reporting practices requested by the federal states take effect even before their implementation in the federal states' legal regulations is complete.

- Degree title (B.A., B.Sc., M.A., M.Sc., etc.)<sup>3</sup>
- Type of study (undergraduate, graduate);
- If applicable, type of teaching degree;
- Study format(s) (full-time, part-time, dual, etc.);
- 5 • Standard duration of study;
- Place(s) of study;
- ECTS credits.

System-accredited institutions of higher education are required under Section 18(4) of the MRVO to provide the Accreditation Council with the accreditation decisions as well as a brief summary of the quality

10 assessment for publication. If a degree program is accredited internally, the respective system-accredited institution is therefore responsible for entering the results of the internal accreditation into the Accreditation Council's database. To obtain a brief overview of accreditation information comparable to program accreditation in the public view of the database, the following must be provided for each program accredited under a system-accredited institution:

15 The following information regarding accreditation granted internally by the university must be entered into the database and subsequently published<sup>4</sup>:

- Deadlines for the accreditation of the degree program;
- Accreditation type (initial accreditation, reaccreditation);
- Accreditation status (Accredited without conditions, Accredited with conditions, Accredi-  
20 accredited with conditions met, negative decision);
- Brief summary of the quality assessment;
- Names of the evaluators involved in the internal accreditation process, taking into account data protection requirements pursuant to § 29, sentence 2;
- Conditions and the status of their fulfillment.

25 Optionally, universities may continue to submit quality reports containing evaluations of the individual criteria, justifications for the accreditation decisions, and a description of the

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<sup>3</sup> If an alternative name or the entry of multiple names is desired, the information can be entered as "other" using the free-text option.

<sup>4</sup> Brief process descriptions for entering degree programs or internal accreditations into the accreditation database can be found on the Accreditation Council's website at the following link: <https://akkreditierungs-rat.de/de/faq/thema/fragen-zu-elias>.

publish the institution's internal procedure for awarding the seal in the Accreditation Council's database.

- The Accreditation Council expects entries to be made promptly, but no later than 4 weeks
- 5 after the respective accreditation decision by the institution. In the case of program-level accreditations, the entry should be made before students are enrolled.