



KEY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS DOCUMENT
OF THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
FOR 2023-2026

I. Introduction, Vision, Mission, and Values

Introduction

The National Accreditation Commission of Schools and Colleges (NACSC) is an autonomous body registered under Act 2 of 1882 with the State Government of Karnataka, India, under the provisions of the Amended NACSC Governance Act, 2016. NACSC operates independently as a national accreditation and regulatory authority, ensuring compliance with quality standards while remaining outside the purview of the government.

NACSC provides accreditation services for PreK-12 schools, higher education institutions (HEIs), and specialized academic programs, including joint degree programs, hybrid learning, blended learning, and distance learning programs. Our accreditation framework aligns with global quality standards such as ESG (EHEA), CHEA (USA), QAA (UK), and TEQSA (Australia), ensuring international recognition and academic mobility.

In 2022, NACSC adopted a robust accreditation framework based on ESG, WFME, AMSE, ORPHEUS, and NAAC to enhance trust and recognition across higher education systems. This includes the accreditation of PreK-12 schools, higher educational institutes, programmes and specialized programme Standards in Medicine and Healthcare, harmonized with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015) and developed on the basis of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) International Standards. NACSC also accredits doctoral programs based on the ORPHEUS-AMSE-WFME-NAAC Standards for PhD Education, ensuring rigorous quality benchmarks and alignment with international best practices.

Following the enforcement of the Amended NACSC Governance Act, NACSC revised its quality assurance methodology to align with the Bologna Declaration and the Lisbon Strategy, ensuring compliance with ESG - 2015 standards.

The board is planning to initiate external peer reviews from organizations such as EQAR, ENQA, WFME, and IREG to maintain accreditation integrity and relevance.

Driven by integrity, professionalism, and innovation, NACSC supports institutions in meeting evolving educational demands in an interconnected world.

Vision

The vision of the National Accreditation Commission of Schools and Colleges (NACSC) is to be an internationally recognized leader in educational accreditation, setting benchmarks for quality assurance

across PreK-12 schools, higher education institutions, and specialized academic programs. NACSC aspires to be a trusted partner in fostering excellence, transparency, and innovation in education, ensuring institutions meet evolving global standards and societal needs.

Our goal is to contribute significantly to the global education landscape by promoting sustainable development, stakeholder collaboration, and academic mobility. NACSC seeks to build a culture of continuous improvement, enhancing institutional credibility and positioning education providers for success in a rapidly changing world.

Mission

The mission of the National Accreditation Commission of Schools and Colleges (NACSC) is to ensure and enhance the quality and integrity of educational institutions worldwide. Our aim is the continuous improvement of quality in higher education institutions, vocational education, and scientific organizations, contributing to their better positioning and recognition in India and internationally.

The evaluations of NACSC cover the entire education system, from early childhood education to higher education, supporting schools, vocational institutions, and higher education institutions in achieving global standards of excellence. Our commitment is to foster equity, innovation, and continuous improvement, ensuring that students across the globe receive a world-class education that prepares them for success in an interconnected world. NACSC collaborates with stakeholders to align accreditation standards with societal needs and emerging educational demands.

Core Values and Principles

- 1. Integrity and Responsibility** – Upholding the highest ethical standards in accreditation processes, ensuring fairness, trust, and credibility. NACSC and educational institutions share a defined responsibility to uphold quality standards and provide appropriate resources for innovation and reviewer training.
- 2. Transparency and Public Accountability** – Ensuring openness and clarity in evaluation and decision-making, providing public access to accreditation outcomes through honest and transparent processes.
- 3. Excellence and Continuous Improvement** – Promoting ongoing enhancement in educational quality by adopting international best practices and fostering a culture of excellence.
- 4. Independence and Objectivity** – Conducting external assessments and decision-making free from external influence, based on published standards and reliable data.
- 5. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement** – Working closely with national and international stakeholders, fostering partnerships to align accreditation standards with evolving societal and educational needs.
- 6. Innovation and Efficiency** – Embracing new technologies and approaches to improve accreditation standards while ensuring processes are efficient and aligned with global quality principles.
- 7. Voluntary Participation and Institutional Autonomy** – Accreditation is voluntary, respecting the academic freedom and autonomy of educational institutions in their pursuit of quality enhancement.
- 8. Student-Centric Approach** – Encouraging student participation in quality assurance processes to ensure their perspectives and experiences are valued and considered.

9. **Teamwork and Respect** – Encouraging a culture of collaboration and cooperation to create an efficient and productive working environment within NACSC and its accredited institutions.

Duties of NACSC

1. Develops and regularly reviews accreditation methodologies, national reference standards, and performance indicators, ensuring compliance with evolving educational frameworks.
2. Evaluates and provides provisional authorization or accreditation for educational institutions and their academic programs across all levels.
3. Conducts periodic evaluations to ensure continuous quality improvement in accredited institutions.
4. Collaborates with national regulatory bodies and stakeholders to align policies with the National Education Policy (NEP) and global standards such as ESG, WFME, AMSE, ORPHEUS, QAA (UK), and TEQSA (Australia).
5. Engages in consultations with educational institutions, students, and industry stakeholders to refine quality assurance mechanisms and set strategic priorities.
6. Publishes manuals, guidelines, and best practice reports to facilitate quality assurance and capacity building.
7. Conducts system-wide analysis to monitor and improve the overall quality of education.
8. Partners with international accreditation agencies to develop and implement global best practices in quality assurance.
9. Evaluates and approves methodologies used by external accreditation agencies in conducting institutional evaluations.
10. Develops and enforces the NACSC Code of Ethics and Conduct to uphold integrity and professionalism in all accreditation activities.
11. Publishes an annual report detailing NACSC's activities, accomplishments, and future goals.
12. Conducts self-assessments to prepare for external evaluations and ensure alignment with global quality assurance benchmarks.
13. Undertakes additional responsibilities as mandated by regulatory frameworks governing education in India and in Abroad.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

1. Alignment with internationally recognized frameworks such as ESG (EHEA), WFME, NAAC, and TEQSA, ensuring compliance with global quality standards.
2. A forward-thinking accreditation model that covers PreK-12 schools, higher education institutions, and specialized programs, fostering flexibility and adaptability.
3. Commitment to transparency, integrity, and excellence, which enhances institutional trust and confidence in the accreditation process.
4. Proactive engagement with stakeholders, policymakers, and educators to drive meaningful improvements in the education ecosystem.

5. A strong focus on digital transformation and innovative solutions to streamline accreditation processes and enhance accessibility.

Weaknesses:

1. Ongoing efforts to strengthen NACSC's international recognition and reputation among established accreditation bodies.
2. Expansion of partnerships with global accreditation networks to enhance mutual recognition and cooperation.
3. Resource constraints requiring strategic allocation for scaling operations and enhancing service offerings.
4. Continuous adaptation to evolving regulatory frameworks to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

Opportunities:

1. Expanding collaboration with international accreditation bodies to strengthen global recognition and institutional trust.
2. Leveraging digital tools to improve operational efficiency, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven decision-making.
3. Addressing the rising demand for accreditation of online and hybrid education programs.
4. Advocating for policy reforms and participation in global initiatives to contribute to the evolution of educational standards.
5. Expanding accreditation services into emerging educational domains, such as vocational training and interdisciplinary programs.

Threats:

1. Evolving regulatory changes that may impact NACSC's operational framework and recognition.
2. Increasing competition from well-established national and international accreditation bodies.
3. Rapid technological advancements requiring continuous innovation to stay relevant and competitive.
4. Resistance to accreditation changes from traditional institutions adapting to new quality assurance methodologies.
5. Ensuring compliance with evolving global quality assurance frameworks amidst dynamic educational landscapes.

Strategic Objectives

1. Enhancing Graduate Competitiveness
 - a. Equip students with globally relevant skills and competencies.
 - b. Foster partnerships with industries and international organizations to align education with workforce demands.
2. International Recognition and Mutual Collaboration

- a. Pursue recognition from international quality assurance networks.
 - b. Establish partnerships with accreditation bodies to support global mobility and qualification comparability.
3. Improvement of Accreditation Mechanisms
 - a. Adopt international best practices to enhance effectiveness and credibility.
 - b. Regularly update policies and standards to reflect emerging trends.
4. Development of Qualified Experts
 - a. Implement training programs to build a pool of qualified accreditation experts.
 - b. Promote continuous professional development.
5. Involvement of International Experts
 - a. Engage experienced international professionals in accreditation activities.
 - b. Leverage global perspectives to strengthen credibility.
6. Sustainable Development of NACSC
 - a. Enhance operational efficiency and financial sustainability.
 - b. Promote accountability and innovation.
7. Stakeholder Engagement and National Cooperation
 - a. Strengthen relationships with national institutions and government bodies.
 - b. Promote trust through transparent communication.
 - c. Establish accreditation criteria aligned with global standards.
 - d. Foster a culture of self-assessment and improvement.
8. Global Recognition and Mutual Collaboration
 - a. Partner with international accreditation bodies.
 - b. Facilitate cross-border educational mobility.
 - c. Align practices with global trends and standards.
9. Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building
 - a. Provide training for institutions and individuals.
 - b. Engage with policymakers, students, and educators.
 - c. Encourage inclusivity and diversity.
10. Innovation and Digital Transformation
 - a. Implement digital tools for transparency and efficiency.
 - b. Promote innovative teaching and learning methodologies.
 - c. Utilize data analytics for quality assessment.
11. Ethical Governance and Transparency
 - a. Ensure ethical standards in all accreditation activities.
 - b. Maintain transparency through public reports and clear policies.

- c. Align governance frameworks with evolving educational landscapes.
- 12. Sustainability and Social Responsibility
 - a. Encourage institutions to incorporate sustainable development goals (SDGs).
 - b. Support initiatives promoting equity, inclusion, and social responsibility.
 - c. Advocate for responsible educational practices.
- 13. Public Dissemination of Accreditation Reports
 - a. Ensure accreditation decisions are publicly accessible to promote transparency and stakeholder confidence.
 - b. Regularly update reports and findings on the NACSC website for ease of access by educational institutions and the public.
- 14. Strategic Consultation Meetings
 - a. Conduct annual consultation meetings with stakeholders, including educational institutions, industry representatives, and policymakers.
 - b. Establish priorities for quality assurance mechanisms and align them with evolving educational needs.

Strategic Directions of NACSC

1. Strengthening Institutional Accreditation and External Quality Assurance

- a. Ensure accreditation processes meet the highest professional standards by continuously refining methodologies and evaluation instruments.
- b. Foster transparency, accountability, and stakeholder trust through rigorous external evaluation.
- c. Align accreditation practices with national and international frameworks to enhance global credibility.
- d. Implement mechanisms for structured stakeholder interaction to collect and incorporate feedback into accreditation processes.
- e. Guarantee independence in decision-making to uphold the credibility of accreditation outcomes.
- f. Conduct regular external assessments and self-evaluations to align with evolving standards.

2. Advancing Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Excellence

- a. Promote a culture of continuous improvement in curriculum design and instructional delivery.
- b. Implement data-driven strategies to enhance teaching effectiveness and learning outcomes.
- c. Support faculty with professional development initiatives focused on modern pedagogical techniques.
- d. Establish benchmarks for learning outcomes across disciplines based on best practices.
- e. Utilize formal mechanisms to collect and act on feedback from stakeholders.

3. Enhancing Research, Development, and Innovation (R&D&I) Capabilities

- a. Develop comprehensive frameworks to assess research quality and societal impact.
- b. Foster industry-academia collaborations to drive innovation and applied research.
- c. Align research evaluation with global best practices to support excellence.
- d. Encourage interdisciplinary research initiatives to address societal challenges.

4. Fostering Social Inclusion and Equity in Education

- a. Promote policies that support underrepresented student populations and ensure accessibility.
- b. Encourage institutions to adopt inclusive learning strategies.
- c. Develop frameworks to assess and enhance social impact in higher education.
- d. Support institutions in implementing sustainable development goals (SDGs).

5. Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement and Trust

- a. Expand NACSC's engagement with international accreditation bodies and quality assurance networks
- b. Align NACSC's accreditation framework with global best practices and international benchmarks
- c. Foster partnerships with international higher education institutions to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications
- d. Encourage student and faculty mobility by promoting accredited institutions internationally
- e. Develop initiatives to enhance NACSC's visibility and reputation on a global scale

6. Expanding International Collaboration and Global Recognition

- a. Build strategic partnerships with global accreditation bodies and institutions
- b. Foster mutual recognition of accreditation decisions
- c. Enhance NACSC's reputation as a globally recognized accreditation agency
- d. Increase participation in international accreditation standards development

7. Adapting to Emerging Trends in Higher Education Governance

- a. Improve operational efficiency through streamlined processes and digital transformation
- b. Strengthen internal governance frameworks to align with international quality standards
- c. Foster a culture of continuous improvement and capacity building within NACSC
- d. Implement risk management strategies to ensure organizational resilience
- e. Enhance data-driven decision-making processes across all functions

8. Leveraging Digital Transformation and Innovation

- a. Enhance digital infrastructure to support accreditation processes

- b. Promote the adoption of innovative digital tools in education quality assurance
- c. Ensure cybersecurity and data protection across all digital initiatives
- d. Foster collaboration with tech partners for continuous digital innovation

9. Enhancing Institutional Capacity and Internal Development

- a. Invest in capacity-building initiatives to strengthen NACSC’s operational efficiency.
- b. Foster a culture of continuous improvement, excellence, and innovation within NACSC.
- c. Develop internal evaluation systems to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.
- d. Expand and upskill the workforce to meet evolving accreditation demands.
- e. Strengthen financial sustainability to support NACSC’s long-term strategic goals.

10. Ensuring Post-Accreditation Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

- a. Establish robust post-accreditation monitoring frameworks
- b. Support institutions in addressing gaps identified during accreditation
- c. Promote a culture of continuous improvement among accredited institutions
- d. Leverage data and analytics for ongoing quality improvements
- e. Ensure stakeholder engagement in post-accreditation activities

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Chairman,
Board of The National Accreditation Commission
of Schools and Colleges (NACSC)