

## Purpose of the Standards Supplemental Information

**Accreditation has a dual purpose of compliance assessment and also of continuous improvement.** Due to the first, MEAC cannot “give you the answer”. MEAC can, however, assist our schools in understanding what is required and help explore ways of meeting that.

Accreditation, and higher education in general, has its own language. To be successful, each school will need to learn this language. This document is provided to assist Member Schools, applicant schools, potential schools, MEAC peer-reviewers, and MEAC decision-makers in understanding MEAC’s 2020 Standards for Accreditation. It will serve as an additional check and balance in helping ensure MEAC has consistency in the application and evaluation of benchmarks and to ensure MEAC’s reviewers and decision makers, as well as schools, are on the same page regarding benchmark interpretation. This document will do that in the following ways:

- explain the purpose for each standard and benchmark
- discuss the interpretations and specifics of each benchmark
- explain what the school will be required to provide in a Self-Evaluation Report
- explain how each benchmark will be verified during a site visit, if applicable
- explain how each benchmark will be evaluated and key points to watch for

This document is also being provided as a piece of training for MEAC’s Member Schools, applicant schools, and potential schools. In addition to the explanations noted above, this document contains several appendices that will be helpful for all schools in their preparation for accreditation. See [Appendix 1: Roadmap for Potential Schools to Prepare for Accreditation](#), [Appendix 2: List of Basic Policies and Procedures to Have](#), and [Appendix 3: Sample Policy and Procedure Template](#).

MEAC’s accreditation staff welcome your questions at any point, so please reach out! *The first point of contact for accredited and preaccredited schools is your assigned MEAC Accreditation Coordinator. For prospective and applicant schools, the first point of contact is the MEAC Director of Accreditation. The Director of Accreditation also serves as a secondary point of contact for accredited and preaccredited schools.*