

Notice of Change in Policy regarding Eligibility for Applying for the Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification.

Past Policy:

Only institutions that have the Carnegie “Basic” Classification can apply for the Elective Community Engagement Classification. This permits the inclusion of institutions with multiple (branch) campuses since the Basic Classification is also the Basic Classification at the branch campus level. Campuses with a main campus and branch campuses submit one application for the community engagement classification, and the application includes evidence from all the campuses.

Current (New) Policy:

NOTE: Please pay special attention to the distinction between “institution”, “campus”, and “system” in this policy.¹

Eligibility to apply for the Elective Community Engagement Classification:

- 1) Institutions must have a Carnegie “Basic” classification. To confirm that your institution has a Basic Carnegie Classification, go to [here](#).
- 2) If your campus is a branch campus of a multi-campus institution, it may not have its own “Basic” classification. Branch campuses that have a history of being an independent institution, have distinct local leadership, and a distinct student body and community within which and with whom they partner, can apply for the Elective Community Engagement Classification separate from the overall institution, even when the branch campus does not have a “Basic” classification, provided that the institution does.
- 3) In order for an institution with branch campuses to earn the community engagement classification as an institutional whole, the application must present data and practices from all branch campuses to demonstrate institution-wide community engagement.
- 4) In the case that each branch campus and the anchor campus of a multi-campus institution achieve independent campus community engagement classifications, the entire institution can elect to receive a unitary classification.

Currently Classified Campuses:

¹ “Institution” refers to an institution of higher education, which may include a main campus and multiple branch campuses. “Campus” refers to the bricks and mortar physical presence of building and facilities in a place – a particular community – as would be typical of an institution with multiple campuses. “System” refers to a higher education system within a state (e.g., the University of California “system”) that may include a number of institutions.

For an institution that received the classification for the first time in 2010 and is considering reclassification - if your institution has branch campuses, then:

- 1) The overall institution may submit for re-classification in the 2020 cycle, including evidence from all the branch campuses, OR
- 2) Any branch campus that was part of the institution when it was previously classified may submit its own, separate, re-classification application, provided that the Institution has a Basic Classification.

If an institution has added any branch campuses since 2010, it may no longer merely apply for reclassification as the nature of the institution has significantly changed. In this case, branch campuses may apply for first time classification OR an institution in this situation (having added new branch campuses) may choose to do the first-time classification as a unified institution and include data and practices from all campuses (both new and previously existing).

This may result in one or more of the following outcomes: a) the main campus and all the branch campuses being successful and the campus receiving a unitary re-classification or first-time classification, b) the main campus being classified or re-classified and one or more of the branch campuses not being re-classified, c) branch campuses being classified or re-classified and not the main campus, d) neither the main campus or the branch campuses being successful with classification or re-classification.

Rationale for the change in eligibility:

The Community Engagement Classification is intended to recognize institutionalization of community engagement within the context of a campus and its community. The essence of engagement is that it is contextualized to the communities of which the campus is a part. It is the goal of the Foundation for the Elective Classification to honor the community context.

Additionally, over the past 5-10 years, and at an increasing rate, states are merging campuses and institutions and private institutions are also merging. What were independent institutions with their own Basic Classification (and Community Engagement Classification) are now being merged into single institutions with branch campuses.

An Example:

University of Ollivander. Right now, there are three campuses and each has its own Basic Classification. They are in three distinct communities within a state. Campuses A and B were

classified in 2010 and need to reclassify in 2020. Campus C is planning on applying in 2020 for the first time. The legislature has just moved to merge the three campuses into one unitary institution, where A would be the main campus and B and C would be branch campuses. Engagement is contextual to each campus, based on classification history, and is operationalized differently across the three campuses.

For the 2020 classification cycle, with the merger, Campus A and Campus B, in order to retain the classification, will need to re-classify. Campus C will need to submit a first-time classification. If all three campuses are successful, then the campus can claim a unified classification that includes the main campus and all of the branch campuses. Alternatively, Campus A can submit a first-time classification application that includes evidence from all three campuses and receive a unitary classification covering the main and all branch campuses.

NOTE:

This policy does not apply to state systems of higher education. As an example, the California State University System cannot apply as a system; or, the University of Minnesota system cannot apply as a system, inasmuch as they are comprised independent institutions, several of which may have multiple campuses.

If you have any questions about your campus' eligibility to apply or the manner of doing so, contact carnegie@acenet.edu.

(revised April 2018)