



# Bulletin of Laws and Regulations for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

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## First Ordinance Amending the State Ordinance on Study Program Accreditation\*

September 15, 2025

Pursuant to Article 1(1) of the Act on the State Treaty Concerning the Organization of a Joint Accreditation System for Quality Assurance in Studies and Teaching at German Universities of December 18, 2017 (GVOBl. M-V p. 369) in conjunction with Article 4, paragraphs 1 through 4, of the State Treaty on Study Accreditation of June 20, 2017 (GVOBl. M-V p. 370), the State Government hereby decrees:

### Article 1

The State Ordinance on Study Program Accreditation of March 10, 2020 (GVOBl. M-V p. 96) is amended as follows:

- 1 The table of contents is amended as follows:
    - a) The entry for § 3 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 3: Program Structure and Duration, Recognition and Credit Transfer.”
    - b) The reference to § 10 is replaced by the following:  
“§ 10 Special Provisions for Joint Programs.”
    - c) The text regarding § 15 is replaced by the following:  
“§ 15 Diversity, Gender Equality, and Equal Opportunity.”
    - d) The entry for § 16 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 16 Special Provisions for Joint Programs.”
    - e) The entry for § 17 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 17 Concept of the Quality Management System at System-Accredited Universities (Objectives, Processes, Instruments).”
    - f) The reference to § 18 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 18: Measures for Implementing the Quality Management Concept of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions.”
    - g) The entry for § 21 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 21 Special criteria for bachelor’s degree programs at vocational academies.”
  - h) The entry for § 33 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 33 Joint Programs.”
  - i) The reference to § 37 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 37 Transitional Provisions”.
  - j) The reference to § 38 is replaced by the following:  
“Section 38 Entry into Force.”
- 2 Section 1, paragraph 2, is replaced by the following paragraph 2:  
“(2) Unless otherwise specified in this regulation, the following provisions on program accreditation also apply to degree programs at state-run and state-recognized vocational academies leading to the state-recognized Bachelor’s degree. A Bachelor’s degree accredited under this regulation is equivalent under higher education law to a Bachelor’s degree from a university.”
  - 3 Section 3 is amended as follows:
    - a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:  
“§ 3  
“Program Structure and Duration, Recognition, and Credit Transfer”.
    - b) The following paragraph 4 is inserted after paragraph 3:  
“(4) The institution shall implement the national and state legal regulations regarding the recognition of competencies, qualifications, and academic achievements obtained at a higher education institution, as well as the transfer of competencies and qualifications acquired outside of higher education institutions.”
  - 4 Section 4, paragraph 1, is amended as follows:
    - a) Sentence 1 is replaced by the following sentence:

\* Amends the Higher Education Ordinance (LVO) of March 10, 2020; GS Meckl.-Vorp. Gl. No. 221 - 26 - 1

“Master’s degree programs may be distinguished according to an ‘application-oriented’ or ‘research-oriented’ profile.”

- b) Sentence 4 is replaced by the following sentence:

“If the institution establishes a profile, this shall be noted in the accreditation.”

- 5 Section 5, paragraph 1, sentence 2 is replaced by the following sentences:

“Continuing education master’s programs generally require a first professional degree as well as qualified professional experience of, as a rule, one year. The professional university degree may be replaced by an entrance examination; the relevant professional experience should comprise at least five years. Exceptions to the required duration of professional experience should be limited to justified individual cases with an equivalent level of professional qualification.”

- 6 Section 7 is amended as follows:

- a) The first and second sentences of paragraph 1 are replaced by the following sentences:

“Degree programs shall be structured into study units (modules) that are thematically and temporally defined by the combination of intended learning outcomes and course content. The intended learning outcomes and course content of a module shall be designed so that they can generally be taught within a maximum of two consecutive semesters; in particularly justified exceptional cases, a module may also extend over more than two semesters.”

- b) Paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

- aa) Number 1 is replaced by the following number 1:

“1. intended learning outcomes and course content of the module,”

- bb) Number 4 is deleted.

- cc) Items 5 through 9 become items 4 through 8.

- c) Paragraph 3, sentence 2, is deleted.

- 7 Section 8 is amended as follows:

- a) Paragraph 5 is replaced by the following paragraph:

“(5) For teacher education programs leading to certification for elementary or primary school teaching, for cross-disciplinary teaching positions at the primary level, and for all or specific types of secondary schools, for teaching positions covering all or specific types of lower secondary schools, as well as for special education teaching positions, a master’s degree may be awarded if a total of 300 ECTS credits have been earned, including at least 240 ECTS credits acquired at the university and the pre-service training period.”

- b) The following paragraph 6 is inserted after paragraph 5:

“(6) At vocational academies, students pursuing a three-year bachelor’s degree program must generally earn 180 ECTS credits. The theoretical component of the program must not be less than 120 ECTS credits, and the practical component must not be less than 30 ECTS credits.”

- 8 Section 10 is amended as follows:

- a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:

“§ 10  
Special Provisions for Joint Programs.”

- b) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following paragraph 1:

“(1) A joint program is a multi-level degree program coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education from foreign countries within the European Higher Education Area; it leads to a joint degree or a double or multiple degree and has the following additional characteristics:

- 1 Integrated curriculum,
- 2 A study component at one or more foreign higher education institutions of generally at least 25 percent,
- 3 contractually regulated cooperation,
- 4 coordinated admission and examination procedures, and
- 5 and joint quality assurance.

Sections 10, 16, and 33 apply to these degree programs. Compliance with the criteria set forth in paragraph 1, items 1 through 5, shall be reviewed.”

- c) The following sentence is inserted after the fourth sentence of paragraph 2:

“In all other respects, the provisions of Part 2 do not apply.”

- d) In paragraph 3, the term “Joint-Degree-Programm” is replaced by the term “Joint Programme.”

- 9 Section 11 is amended as follows:

- a) Paragraph 1, sentence 1, is replaced by the following sentence:

“The qualification objectives and the intended learning outcomes are clearly formulated, publicly accessible, and transparently reflect the objectives of higher education set forth in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 1 of the State Treaty on the Accreditation of Study Programs.”

- b) The first sentence of paragraph 3 is replaced by the following sentence:

“Bachelor’s degree programs are designed to impart fundamental academic knowledge, methodological skills, and field-specific qualifications, and ensure a broad academic or artistic education.”

l) Section 12 is amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

aa) Sentence 3 is replaced by the following sentence:

“The program concept includes diverse forms of teaching, learning, and assessment adapted to the respective academic discipline and the program format, as well as practical components where applicable.”

bb) The following sentence is inserted after sentence 5:

“The degree program, curriculum, examination requirements, module descriptions, and admission requirements—including provisions for compensating for disadvantages faced by students with disabilities or chronic illnesses—are documented and published.”

b) Paragraph 5, sentence 2, item 4 is replaced by the following item 4:

“4. An adequate and workload-appropriate examination frequency and organization, which is coherently justified in an examination concept and whose workload appropriateness is regularly assessed with student input as part of the program’s further development pursuant to § 14; modules shall have a scope of at least five ECTS credits.”

c) The following paragraph 7 is inserted after paragraph 6:

“(7) A degree program may be designated and advertised as ‘dual’ if the learning locations (at least a university or vocational academy and a company) are systematically integrated with one another in terms of content, organization, and contractual arrangements.”

ll) Section 13, paragraph 3, is replaced by the following paragraph 3:

“(3) In the context of the accreditation of teacher education programs, particular attention shall be paid to whether

- 1 an integrated program at universities or equivalent institutions comprising at least two subject areas and educational sciences is offered during both the bachelor’s and master’s phases (exceptions are permitted for the subjects of art and music),
- 2 practical school-based studies already during the bachelor’s program and
- 3 a differentiation of the program and degrees by teaching certification

. Exceptions to sentence 1, items 1 and 2, are permitted for teaching at vocational schools and for master’s programs for lateral entrants.”

l) Section 15 is replaced by the following Section 15:

“§ 1K

Diversity, Gender Equality, and Compensating for Disadvantages

The university has policies in place to address diversity, gender equity, and the promotion of equal opportunities for students in special circumstances, as well as for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses, which are implemented at the program level.”

ll) Section 16 is amended as follows:

a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:

“§ 16

Special Provisions for Joint Programs.”

b) Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

aa) In sentence 1, the term “Joint-Degree-Programs” is replaced by the term “Joint Programs”.

bb) The following sentence is inserted after sentence 1:

“In all other respects, the provisions of Part 3 do not apply.”

c) In paragraph 2, the term “Joint-Degree-Program” is replaced by the term “Joint Programmes”.

lll) Section 17 is amended as follows:

a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:

“§ 17

Concept of the Quality Management System for System-Accredited Universities  
(Objectives, Processes, Tools)”.

b) Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

aa) Sentence 1 is replaced by the following sentence:

“The institution has central educational objectives for teaching, which are reflected in the institution’s mission statement and in the curricula of its degree programs.”

bb) The following sentences are inserted after sentence 4:

“The university shall establish provisions regarding validity periods and deadlines in accordance with §§ 26 and 27. In doing so, the university may set shorter validity periods and deadlines. If a quality management system provides for the formation of groups, § 30(1) shall apply mutatis mutandis with respect to group sizes.”

lll) Section 18 is amended as follows:

a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:

“§ 18

Measures for the Implementation of the Quality Management Concept of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions.”

- b) Paragraph 1, sentence 1, is replaced by the following sentence:

“The quality management system includes regular evaluations of degree programs and areas of activity relevant to teaching and student studies by students from within and outside the institution, external academic experts, representatives from the professional field, and graduates; the institution may conduct the evaluation of formal criteria independently.”

- c) Paragraph 4 is replaced by the following paragraph 4:

“(4) The institution shall document the evaluation of its degree programs under its internal quality management system, including the opinions of external stakeholders, as well as the measures taken, and shall inform the institution’s members, the sponsoring body, and the state in which it is located of these matters. For the information of the public, it shall make the accreditation decisions and a brief summary of the quality assessment available to the Accreditation Council for publication. Section 29, sentence 2, applies mutatis mutandis.”

- k) Section 21 is replaced by the following Section 21:

“§ 21

Special Criteria for Bachelor’s Degree Programs at Vocational Academies

l) Full-time faculty members at vocational academies must meet the hiring requirements for lecturers as set forth in Section 12(2) of the Vocational Academy Act. To the extent that courses primarily serve to impart practical skills and knowledge for which the hiring requirements for lecturers are not necessary, these full-time teachers may be assigned special tasks in accordance with Section 12(6) of the Vocational Academy Act. The proportion of instruction to be provided by full-time faculty members is determined in accordance with Section 6(2)(7) of the Vocational Academy Act. Compliance with these requirements must be separately verified as part of the accreditation process for each individual degree program.

m) As part of the accreditation process, the following must also be reviewed:

- 1 the interaction between the different learning environments (academy and company),
- 2 the assurance of quality and continuity in the curriculum and in the support and advising of students, given the unique staffing structure at vocational academies, and
- 3 the existence of a sustainable quality management system that encompasses the various learning locations.”

- n) In § 22, paragraph 2, sentence 1, the word “written” is replaced by the word “electronic.”

- o) Section 24 is amended as follows:

- a) Paragraph 3, sentence 1, is replaced by the following sentence:

“The review report shall be prepared by the Agency; in the case of degree programs under Section 25(1), sentences 3 and 4, the review report must be approved by the persons designated therein before it is forwarded to the Accreditation Council.”

- b) Paragraph 5, sentence 1, is replaced by the following sentence:

“As part of the evaluation of the subject-specific and content-related criteria, the evaluation committee generally conducts an on-site visit.”

- c) The following paragraph 6 is inserted after paragraph 5:

“(6) If the expert opinion contains recommendations regarding conditions, the institution of higher education and the agency may agree on an additional procedural step to address the issues identified in the expert opinion before submitting the application to the Accreditation Council.”

- p) In § 25(5)(2), the term “Joint-Degree-Programmen” is replaced by the term “Joint Programmes.”

- q) Section 26 is amended as follows:

- a) Paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

- aa) Sentence 1 is replaced by the following sentence:

“Before the accreditation period expires, an application for reaccreditation must be submitted; if successful, the new accreditation will take effect immediately following the previous one.”

- bb) The following sentences are inserted after the first sentence:

“If an application is submitted in a timely manner as defined herein, the accreditation shall be extended for the duration of the administrative proceedings. The reaccreditation shall take effect no later than the beginning of the second semester or trimester following the announcement of the accreditation decision.”

- b) Paragraph 3 is replaced by the following paragraph 3:

“(3) The validity period of the accreditation may be extended for a total period of up to two years if

- 1 in the case of program accreditation, the institution is preparing an application for bundle or system accreditation that includes the respective degree program, or

- 2 the institution applies for an extension of the deadline in justified exceptional cases that are wholly or partly beyond the institution’s control; the extraordinary extension of the deadline in individual cases shall be credited toward the next accreditation period.

If an application for institutional accreditation has been submitted, the accreditation of degree programs whose accreditation expires during the process may be provisionally extended for the duration of the process plus one year. If an accredited degree program is discontinued, the accreditation may be extended for students still enrolled at the time the accreditation period expires.”

1 Section 29, sentence 3, is deleted.

2 Section 30, paragraph 2, is replaced by the following paragraph 3:

“(2) Groups comprising more than four degree programs must be approved by the Accreditation Council prior to the submission of the application. This applies to combined degree programs regardless of the size of the group.”

3 Section 32, paragraph 2, sentence 2 is replaced by the following sentence:

“The institutions of higher education shall ensure, through their respective quality management systems, that the feasibility of study pursuant to § 12, paragraph 5, is guaranteed for all possible subject combinations.”

4 Section 33 is amended as follows:

a) The heading is replaced by the following heading:

“§ 33  
Joint Programs.”

b) Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

aa) In sentence 1, the term “Joint-Degree-Program-me” is replaced by “Joint Programmes”.

bb) Sentence 2 is replaced by the following sentence:

“The Accreditation Council recognizes this evaluation upon application by the institution and grants its seal if compliance with the formal and academic criteria for joint programs pursuant to Sections 10 and 16 of this regulation has been demonstrated and the evaluation process has met the following requirements:

1 the Accreditation Council was notified of the conduct of the procedure prior to its commencement,

2 the accreditation decision is based on a self-report by the cooperating institutions of higher education, which in particular contains information on the respective national framework conditions and highlights the special characteristics of the joint program,

3 An on-site visit has taken place at at least one location of the program, with the participation of representatives from all cooperating institutions of higher education as well as other stakeholders,

4 the evaluation is based on a report that complies with the requirements of Joint Programmes in Parts 2 and 3,

5 the evaluation was conducted by a panel of at least four experts, composed as follows:

a) Members from at least two of the countries participating in the Joint Programme,

b) at least one student representative or a female student representative,

c) The panel of experts possesses expertise in the relevant subjects and disciplines, including the labor market or professional world in the respective fields, as well as expertise in the area of quality assurance in higher education; it is familiar with the higher education systems of the participating institutions and the languages of instruction used; and

d) the requirements pursuant to Section 25(3), first sentence, and paragraphs 5 and 6 have been met,

6 The evaluation identifies the following characteristics: justification, finality, and, where applicable, demonstrated fulfillment of conditions and

7 “The agency has published at least a summary of the expert opinion, including the assessment, on its website in English.”

cc) The following sentence is inserted after sentence 3:

“If the accreditation decision is not made in accordance with sentence 1, in deviation from § 22, the provisions of §§ 10 and 16 for joint programs within the meaning of § 10(1) shall nevertheless apply mutatis mutandis.”

dd) In sentence 5, the term “Joint-Degree-Programs” is replaced by the term “Joint Programs.”

c) In paragraph 2, sentence 1, the term “Joint-Degree-Program” is replaced by the term “Joint Programmes.”

Σ In § 34(5), second sentence, the reference to “§ 26(3), third sentence” is replaced by the reference to “§ 26(3), second sentence.”

Ξ Section 36 is replaced by the following Section 36:

“Section 36  
Evaluation

The regulation shall be reviewed regularly and within a reasonable period of time.”

Ω The following § 37 is inserted after § 36:

“§ 37  
Transitional Provisions

Ⓛ) In the case of Section 12(5)(4), where a condition within the meaning of Section 27 is to be imposed pursuant to the version of this Regulation in effect until July 31, 2025, the Accreditation Council may, if the available information is insufficient, require as a condition that the appropriateness of the workload be demonstrated as part of the examination concept.

Ⓞ) For accreditation applications submitted on or before April 1, 2026, Sections 11(1), first sentence, and 12(“Sentence 1, Sentences 6, 15, and 17, Paragraph 1, Sentences 5, 6, and 7, and Paragraph 2 of the Regulation shall continue to apply in the version in force until July 31, 2025.”

⌘) The current Section 37 becomes Section 38.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on August 1, 2025.

Schwerin, September 15, 2025

The Minister-President  
Manuela Schwesig

The Minister for Science, Culture,  
Federal and European Affairs  
Bettina Martin