MRVO	Lower Saxony Regulation Governing the Details of Academic Program Accreditation (Lower Saxony Academic Program Accreditation Regulation— Nds. StudAkkVO) Source: Submitted by the responsible ministry on November 6, 2025; current version available at: https://voris.wolterskluwer-online.de/browse/document/cite/fb9c17a3-0e2a-359f-93a6-7e8e623d3f42	Assessment of the Deviation in the State Ordinance from the MRVO
Part 1 General Provisions	**Part 1 – General Provisions**	
§ 1 Scope of Application	**§ 1 Scope of Application and Regulatory Scope**	
(1) This ordinance, based on Article 4 of the State Treaty on the Organization of a Joint Accreditation System for Quality Assurance in Studies and Teaching at German Universities (State Treaty on Study Accreditation; GVBl.) sets forth the details regarding the formal criteria under Article 2, paragraph 2; the subject-specific and content-related criteria under Article 2, paragraph 3; and the procedure under Article 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	(1) This regulation, ~~based on Article 4 of the State Treaty on the Organization of a Joint Accreditation System for Quality Assurance in Academic Studies and Teaching at German Universities (State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation; GVBl.)~~ the details regarding the formal criteria under Article 2, paragraph 2; the subject-specific and content-related criteria under Article 2, paragraph 3; and the procedure under Article 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(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 that lead to the degree title "Bachelor." A Bachelor's degree accredited on the basis of this (model) regulation is equivalent, under higher education law, to a Bachelor's degree from a university.	(2) Unless otherwise specified in this ordinance, the ~~following~~ provisions on program accreditation also apply to Bachelor's degree programs pursuant to § 6a of the Lower Saxony Vocational Academy Act (Nds. BAkadG) at ~~state-run and~~ state-recognized vocational academies ~~that lead~~ to ~~the degree title "Bachelor."~~ The specific provisions mentioned therein must be ~~observed. A bachelor's degree accredited on the basis of this (model) statutory ordinance is equivalent, under higher education law, to a bachelor's degree from a university~~.	Utilization of the discretion allowed by the MRVO in state law: Pursuant to Section 6a(5) of the Lower Saxony Vocational Academy Act, completion of a bachelor's degree program confers the same entitlements as a bachelor's degree from a university. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 2 Forms of Accreditation	**§ 2 Forms of Accreditation**	
Forms of accreditation include the procedures set forth in Article 3(1)(1) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (system accreditation), Article 3(1)(2) (program accreditation), or alternative accreditation procedures under Article 3(1)(3).	Forms of accreditation include the procedures set forth in Article 3, paragraph 1, item 1 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (system accreditation), in Article 3, paragraph 1, item 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (program accreditation), or alternative accreditation procedures pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1, No. 3, of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 2: Formal Criteria for Degree Programs	**Part 2 – Formal Criteria for Degree Programs**	
§ 3 Program Structure and Duration, Recognition, and Credit Transfer	**§ 3 Program Structure and Duration, Recognition, and Credit Transfer**	

(1) In the system of tiered degree programs, the bachelor's degree is the first standard degree conferring professional qualifications in a higher education program; the master's degree constitutes a further higher education degree conferring professional qualifications. Undergraduate degree programs that lead directly to a master's degree are excluded, with the exception of the degree programs specified in paragraph 3.	(1) In the system of tiered degree programs, the bachelor's degree is the first standard degree conferring professional qualifications in a higher education program~~;~~ the master's degree represents a further higher education degree conferring professional qualifications. Undergraduate degree programs that lead directly to a master's degree are excluded, with the exception of the programs specified in paragraph 3.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The standard periods of study for full-time study are six, seven, or eight semesters for bachelor's degree programs and four, three, or two semesters for master's degree programs. For bachelor's degree programs, the standard period of study for full-time study is at least three years. For consecutive degree programs, the total standard period of study for full-time study is five years (ten semesters). If state law so provides, shorter or longer standard periods of study are exceptionally possible, subject to appropriate organizational arrangements, in order to enable students to pursue an individualized learning path, particularly through part-time, distance, part-time while working, or dual study programs, as well as semesters of professional practice. Notwithstanding the third sentence, in the core artistic disciplines at colleges of art and music, consecutive bachelor's and master's degree programs may also be established with a standard duration of study of six years, subject to further provisions of state law.	(2) The standard duration of study for full-time programs is ~~six,~~ seven and three, three and a half, or ~~eight~~ semesters—four years—for bachelor's programs, and ~~four,~~ three and two, one and a half, or ~~two~~ semesters—one year—for master's programs. ~~For Bachelor's programs, the standard period of study for full-time study is at least three years.~~ For consecutive degree programs leading to a Bachelor's degree and a subsequent Master's degree, the total standard period of study for full-time study is a maximum of five years ~~(ten semesters). If state law so provides, shorter or longer periods are permitted.~~ Other standard periods of study are possible on an exceptional basis, ~~subject to appropriate program organization~~, in particularly well-justified cases, ~~in order to enable students to pursue an individualized learning path—~~in particular ~~through part-time, distance learning, work-integrated, or dual study programs~~ for work-integrated Bachelor's and Master's programs, ~~as well as semesters of professional practice.~~ for degree programs offered in special formats such as compact or part-time programs. Notwithstanding sentence ~~3~~, the total standard period of study for consecutive degree programs in the core artistic disciplines at art and music colleges may, ~~subject to further~~ specification ~~and~~ with the approval of state ~~law, be established for consecutive bachelor's and master's degree programs with a total standard period of study of six~~ years.	According to state regulations, the standard total duration of study for full-time programs is *a maximum of* five years. According to the ministry, however, "3 plus 1" models are not intended under this regulation. The requirement under § 3(2), second sentence, of the MRVO—that the standard period of study for full-time Bachelor's programs must be at least three years—is not incorporated into the state ordinance because § 3(2), first sentence, of the state ordinance already clarifies that the standard periods of study for Bachelor's programs are three, three and a half, or four years. Regarding the standard period of study for artistic degree programs: Utilization of the discretion allowed by the MRVO in state law. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) Theological degree programs that qualify students for the office of pastor, the priesthood, or the profession of pastoral assistant ("full theological degree program") need not be divided into stages and may have a standard period of study of ten semesters.	(3) Theological degree programs that qualify students for the office of pastor, the priesthood, or the profession of pastoral assistant ~~(~~"Full Theological Degree ~~Program")~~ need not be divided into levels and may have a standard period of study of ten semesters.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) The institution implements the national and state regulations governing the recognition of competencies, qualifications, and academic achievements earned at a higher education institution, as well as the transfer of competencies and qualifications acquired outside of higher education institutions.	(4) The institution implements the national and state regulations governing the recognition of competencies, qualifications, and academic achievements earned at a higher education institution, as well as the transfer of competencies and qualifications acquired outside of higher education institutions.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 4 Program Profiles	**§ 4 Program Profiles**	
(1) Master's degree programs may be "application-oriented" or "research-oriented" profiles. Master's degree programs at colleges of art and music may have a special artistic profile. Master's degree programs that provide the educational prerequisites for a teaching position have a special teaching-related profile. If the institution specifies a profile, this must be stated in the accreditation.	(1) Master's degree programs can be classified according to "practice-oriented" or "research-oriented" profiles. Master's degree programs at colleges of art and music may have a specific artistic profile. Master's degree programs ~~that~~ provide the educational prerequisites for admission to the preparatory service for a teaching position have a specific teaching-related profile. If the institution defines a profile in accordance with sentence 1 or sentence 2, this must be specified in the accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) When establishing a master's program, it must be specified whether it is a consecutive or continuing education program. Continuing education master's programs correspond to consecutive master's programs in terms of the standard period of study and the thesis, and lead to the same level of qualification and the same entitlements.	(2) When establishing a master's program, it must be specified whether it is a consecutive or continuing education program. Continuing education master's programs correspond to consecutive master's programs in terms of the standard period of study and the thesis, and lead to the same level of qualification and the same entitlements.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) Bachelor's and Master's degree programs require a thesis that demonstrates the ability to independently address a problem in the respective field within a specified time frame using scientific or artistic methods.	(3) Bachelor's and master's degree programs require a thesis that demonstrates the ability to independently address a problem in the respective field within a specified time frame using scientific or artistic methods.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 5 Admission Requirements and Transitions Between Degree Programs	**§ 5 Admission Requirements and Transitions Between Degree Programs**	
(1) The admission requirement for a master's degree program is a first professional degree. For continuing education and artistic master's degree programs, the professional degree may be replaced by an entrance examination, provided that state law so provides. Continuing education Master's programs require at least one year of qualified professional experience; exceptions may be granted to individual students in justified cases.	(1) The admission requirement for a master's program is a first professional degree. ~~For continuing education and artistic master's programs, the professional degree may be replaced by an entrance examination, provided that state law so provides.~~ Continuing education Master's programs require at least one year of qualified professional experience; exceptions may be granted to individual students in justified cases.	Utilization of the flexibility provided by the MRVO in state law.

(2) As an admission requirement for artistic master's degree programs, proof of the specific artistic aptitude required for such programs must be provided. For admission to professional artistic master's degree programs, professional practical activities completed during the course of study may also be taken into account, provided that state law permits this. The requirement for professional practical experience does not apply at art colleges for programs designed to deepen independent artistic skills, provided that state law provisions so stipulate.	(2) In addition to the first professional degree, admission to artistic master's programs ~~requires~~ proof of ~~the necessary~~ special artistic aptitude. ~~For admission to continuing education artistic master's programs, professional practical experience gained during the course of study may also be taken into account, provided that state law permits this. The requirement for professional practical experience does not apply at art colleges for programs designed to deepen independent artistic skills, provided that state law provide for it.~~	Exercise of the discretion granted by the MRVO in state law. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) Additional requirements for admission to master's degree programs may be established in accordance with state law.	(3) ~~Additional requirements for~~ admission to master's degree programs ~~may be stipulated in accordance with state law.~~ This is regulated in a set of regulations pursuant to § 18(8), sentence 3, of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act.	Exercise of the discretion allowed by the MRVO in state law.
§ 6 Degrees and Degree Titles	**§ 6 Degrees and Degree Titles**	
(1) Upon successful completion of a bachelor's or master's degree program, only one degree—either the bachelor's or master's degree—is awarded, unless it is a multiple-degree program. In this context, degrees are not differentiated based on the standard duration of study.	(1) Upon successful completion of a bachelor's or master's degree program, only one degree—either the bachelor's or master's degree—is awarded, unless it is a multiple-degree program. In this context, degrees are not differentiated based on the standard duration of study.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The following designations are to be used for bachelor's and consecutive master's degrees:	(2) The following designations are ~~to~~ be used for Bachelor's degrees and for consecutive Master's degrees in consecutive Master's programs:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) in the subject groups of Language and Cultural Studies, Sports, Sports Science, Social Sciences, Art History, and Performing Arts, as well as—provided the program's content is appropriately aligned—in the subject group of Economics and in applied arts programs,	1. Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) in the subject groups of Language and Cultural Studies, Sports, Sports Science, Social Sciences, Art History, and Performing Arts~~, as well as in the subject group of Economics— provided the program's~~ content ~~is~~ appropriately aligned—and in applied arts programs,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Master of Science (M.Sc.) in the subject groups of Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Agricultural, Forestry, and Nutritional Sciences, and in the subject groups of Engineering and Economics, provided the program content is appropriately aligned,	2. Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Master of Science (M.Sc.) in the subject groups of Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, and Agricultural, Forestry, and Nutritional Sciences, as well as in the subject groups of Engineering and Economics, provided the curriculum is appropriately aligned,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) and Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in the engineering sciences subject group, provided the program content is appropriately aligned,	3. Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) and Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in the Engineering Sciences subject group, provided the curriculum is appropriately aligned,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) in the field of law,	4. Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) in the field of law,	Editorial changes / no deviations.

5. Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) and Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in the Fine Arts subject group,	5. Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) and Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in the Fine Arts subject group,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
6. Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) and Master of Music (M.Mus.) in the Music subject group,	6. Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) and Master of Music (M.Mus.) in the Music subject group,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
7. Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and Master of Education (M.Ed.) for degree programs that provide the educational requirements for a teaching career. For a multidisciplinary degree program, a designation according to numbers 1 through 7 may be assigned based on the program's content focus.	7. ~~Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and~~ Master of Education (M.Ed.) for degree programs ~~that provide~~ the educational prerequisites ~~for~~ admission to the preparatory service for a teaching position~~. For a multidisciplinary degree program, a designation in accordance with numbers 1 through 7 may~~ be assigned ~~based on the program's content focus~~.	According to Section 6(2)(7) of the State Ordinance, the degrees Bachelor of Education and Master of Education may not be awarded in polyvalent bachelor's and master's degree programs. According to the Ministry, the rationale behind this is to avoid giving the impression that such a degree would grant access to the teacher training program. Since the Bachelor's degree is generally interdisciplinary, awarding a Bachelor of Education is also prohibited under the State Ordinance.

Subject-specific additions to degree titles and mixed-language degree titles are not permitted. Bachelor's degrees with the designation "honors" ("B.A. hon.") are not permitted. For interdisciplinary and combined degree programs, the degree title is determined by the subject area that predominates in the program. For continuing education programs, master's degrees that differ from the aforementioned titles may also be used. For theological programs that qualify students for the office of pastor, the priesthood, or the profession of pastoral assistant ("full theological program"), different titles may also be used.	For multi-disciplinary degree programs, interdisciplinary degree programs, and combined degree programs, the degree title is determined in accordance with items 1 through 6 based on the field of study that predominates in the program. Subject-specific additions to degree titles and bilingual degree titles are not permitted. Bachelor's degrees with the addition ~~"honors" (~~"B.A. ~~hon.")~~ are not permitted. ~~For interdisciplinary and combined degree programs, the degree title is determined by the field of study that predominates in the program.~~ For continuing education master's degree programs, the master's degrees specified in sentence 1, as well as master's degrees that differ from the ~~aforementioned~~ designations in sentence 1, may ~~also~~ be used. For ~~theological degree programs that qualify students for~~ the ~~office of pastor, the priesthood, or the profession of pastoral assistant (~~"non-tiered full theological degree ~~program"), alternative~~ designations of the master's degree as specified in sentence 1, no. 1, or a master's degree that differs from the designation specified in sentence 1, no. 1, may ~~also~~ be used.	See previous comment. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) The degree documents may specify, in an appropriate place, that the qualification level of the bachelor's degree corresponds to a "Diplom" degree from a university of applied sciences, or that the qualification level of a master's degree corresponds to a "Diplom" degree from a university or an equivalent institution of higher education.	(3) The degree documents may specify, in an appropriate place, that the qualification level of a bachelor's degree corresponds to a "Diplom" degree from a university of applied sciences or that the qualification level of a master's degree corresponds to a "Diplom" degree from a university or an equivalent institution of higher education.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) Detailed information about the degree program underlying the degree is provided in the Diploma Supplement, which is an integral part of every degree certificate.	(4) Detailed information about the degree program underlying the degree is provided in the Diploma Supplement, which is an integral part of every degree certificate.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 7 Modularization	**§ 7 Modularization**	
(1) Degree programs shall be structured into study units (modules) that are defined thematically and temporally by the combination of intended learning outcomes and course content. The intended learning outcomes and course content of a module must be structured so that they can generally be taught within a maximum of two consecutive semesters; in exceptionally justified cases, a module may extend over more than two semesters. For the core artistic subject in the bachelor's program, at least two modules are required, which may account for approximately two-thirds of the total study time.	(1) Degree programs must be structured into study units (modules) that are defined by subject matter and duration through the combination of intended learning outcomes and course content. The intended learning outcomes and course content of a module must be structured so that they can generally be taught within a maximum of two consecutive semesters; in exceptional cases with special justification, a module may also extend over more than two semesters. For the core artistic subject in the bachelor's program, at least two modules are required, which may account for approximately two-thirds of the total study time.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The description of a module shall include at least the following:	(2) The description of a module must include at least the following: -	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. the intended learning outcomes and course content of the module,	1. the intended learning outcomes and course content of the module,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. Teaching and learning methods,	2. Teaching and learning methods,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. Prerequisites for participation,	3. Prerequisites for participation,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. Requirements for the awarding of ECTS credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS credits),	4. Requirements for the awarding of ~~ECTS~~ credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS credits),	Editorial changes / no deviations.
5. ECTS credits and grading,	5. ECTS credits and grading,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
6. Frequency of the module's offering,	6. Frequency of the module's offering,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
7. Workload and	7. Workload and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
8. Duration of the module.	8. Duration of the module.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) The prerequisites for participation must specify the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful participation, as well as guidelines for appropriate preparation by students. The requirements for the awarding of ECTS credits must specify how a module can be successfully completed (type of exam, scope, duration).	(3) The prerequisites for participation must specify the knowledge, abilities, and skills required for successful participation, as well as guidance for appropriate preparation by students. The requirements for the awarding of ECTS credits must specify how a module can be successfully completed (type of examination, scope, and duration).	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 8 Credit Point System	**§ 8 Credit Point System**	
(1) Each module must be assigned a specific number of ECTS credits based on the workload required of students. As a rule, 30 credits per semester shall serve as the basis. One credit corresponds to a total student workload of 25 to a maximum of 30 hours of in-class and independent study. ECTS credits are awarded for a module if the student demonstrates the achievements specified in the examination regulations. The awarding of ECTS credits does not necessarily require an examination, but rather the successful completion of the respective module.	(1) Each module shall be assigned a specific number of ECTS credits based on the workload required of students. As a rule, 30 ECTS credits shall be used ~~as~~ the basis ~~for~~ each semester. One ECTS credit corresponds to ~~a~~ total workload of 25 to ~~a maximum of~~ 30 hours of in-class and independent study by the students. ECTS credits are awarded for a module if the student demonstrates the achievements specified in the examination regulations. The awarding of ECTS credits does not necessarily require an examination, but rather the successful completion of the respective module.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) To earn a bachelor's degree, students must earn no fewer than 180 ECTS credits. For the master's degree, 300 ECTS credits are required, taking into account the student's prior studies up to the first professionally qualifying degree. In individual cases, exceptions may be made to this requirement if the student possesses the appropriate qualifications, even if 300 ECTS credits are not attained upon completion of a master's program. For consecutive Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in the core artistic disciplines at art and music colleges with a standard duration of six years, the Master's level is achieved with 360 ECTS credits.	(2) A minimum of 180 ECTS credits is required for a bachelor's degree. For a master's degree, 300 ECTS credits are required, taking into account prior coursework completed up to the first professionally qualifying degree. ~~In individual cases, this requirement may~~ be waived ~~if the student possesses the appropriate qualifications.~~ Notwithstanding the second sentence~~,~~ this requirement may be waived ~~even if~~ 300 ECTS credits ~~are~~ not ~~attained upon completion of a master's program~~ in individual cases, provided the student has the appropriate qualifications. For consecutive ~~bachelor's and~~ master's degree programs in the core artistic disciplines at art and music colleges with a standard duration of study totaling six years~~, the master's level is achieved with 360 ECTS credits.~~ Taking into account the student's prior studies, 360 ECTS credits are required for the master's degree.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The scope of work for the bachelor's thesis is 6 to 12 ECTS credits, and for the master's thesis, 15 to 30 ECTS credits. In Fine Arts programs, in justified exceptional cases, the scope of the Bachelor's thesis may be up to 20 ECTS credits and that of the Master's thesis up to 40 ECTS credits.	(3) The ~~scope of work for the~~ bachelor's thesis ~~is~~ 6—that is, six—to 12 ECTS credits, and ~~for~~ the master's thesis, 15 to 30 ECTS credits are assigned. In Fine Arts degree programs~~,~~ in justified exceptional cases, the ~~scope of work for the~~ bachelor's thesis may ~~be~~ up to 20 ECTS credits and ~~for~~ the master's thesis up to 40 ECTS credits.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(4) In justified exceptional cases, up to 75 ECTS credits per academic year may be applied to degree programs with special academic organizational measures. In this context, the workload for one ECTS credit is calculated at 30 hours. Special academic organizational measures may relate in particular to the learning environment and supervision, the structure of the program, academic planning, and measures to ensure a livelihood.	(4) In justified exceptional cases, up to 75 ECTS credits per academic year may be applied for degree programs with special academic organizational measures. In this context, ~~the workload~~ for one ECTS credit ~~is calculated as~~ a total of 30 hours. Special academic organizational measures may relate in particular to the learning environment and academic support, the structure of the program, academic planning, and measures to ensure a livelihood.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(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 taking into account the pre-service training period.	(5) 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.~~(5) For teacher education programs leading to certification to teach at the elementary or primary school level, 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 has been earned, including at least 240 ECTS credits acquired at the university and taking into account the pre-service training period.~~	According to the Ministry, the provision in § 8(5) of the MRVO was not adopted because, in Lower Saxony, credits from the preparatory service are not counted toward teacher education, and 300 ECTS credits are already earned upon completion of the master's degree. For this reason, the provision of § 8(6) of the MRVO is included in paragraph 5 of the state ordinance.

(6) At vocational academies, students must generally demonstrate 180 ECTS credits for a three-year Bachelor's degree program. The theoretical component must not be less than 120 ECTS credits, and the practical component must not be less than 30 ECTS credits.	~~(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.~~	The provision from § 8(5) MRVO was not incorporated into the state ordinance. Therefore, the provision from § 8(6) of the MRVO is included in paragraph 5 of the state ordinance, and the state ordinance does not contain a paragraph 6.
§ 9 Special Criteria for Collaborations with Non-Higher-Education Institutions	**§ 9 Special Criteria for Collaborations with Non-Higher-Education Institutions**	
(1) The scope and nature of existing collaborations with companies and other institutions—including non-higher-education learning venues, course components, and the language(s) of instruction—are contractually regulated and described on the university's website. When applying credit transfer models within the framework of program-specific collaborations, the substantive equivalence of non-higher-education qualifications to be transferred and their equivalence to the intended qualification level must be clearly demonstrated.	(1) The scope and nature of existing collaborations with companies and other institutions—including non-higher-education learning settings, course components, and the language(s) of instruction—are contractually regulated and described on the university's website. When applying credit transfer models within the framework of program-specific partnerships, the substantive equivalence of non-higher-education qualifications to be credited and their equivalence to the intended qualification level must be clearly demonstrated.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) In the case of program-specific collaborations with non-higher-education institutions, the added value for future students and the degree-granting institution must be clearly demonstrated.	(2) In the case of program-specific collaborations with non-higher-education institutions, the added value for future students and the degree-granting institution must be clearly demonstrated.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

§ 10 Special Provisions for Joint Programs	§ 10 Special Provisions for Joint Programs	
(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 in foreign countries within the European Higher Education Area, leading to a joint degree or a double or multiple degree, and exhibiting the following additional characteristics:	(1) A joint program is a bachelor's or master's degree program within the tiered degree program system that is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more foreign institutions of higher education ~~from countries within the European Higher Education Area~~, and that leads to a joint degree or a double or multiple degree. Sections 10, 16, and 33 apply to these degree programs, ~~which also exhibit the following additional characteristics:~~ Compliance with the criteria listed in paragraph 2, items 1 through 5, is reviewed.	Paragraph 1, sentence 1 of the State Ordinance: The addition specifying that these are bachelor's and master's degree programs is merely a clarification. The MRVO also refers only to "tiered degree programs," meaning solely bachelor's and master's degree programs. The definition of a "joint program" has also been expanded to include joint programs with cooperation partners from outside the EHEA. This makes sense. The MRVO implicitly contains the same assessment but is linguistically contradictory. Otherwise, these are editorial changes; there are no deviations.
	~~-~~(2) If the foreign higher education institution or institutions belong to the European Higher Education Area, the joint degree program has the following characteristics:	See previous comment.
1. Integrated curriculum,	1. Integrated curriculum,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. A portion of the program, generally at least 25 percent, is completed at one or more foreign higher education institutions,	2. A portion of the program, generally at least 25 percent, is completed at one or more foreign higher education institutions,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. Contractually regulated cooperation,	3. Contractually regulated cooperation,	Editorial changes / no deviations.

4. Coordinated admission and examination systems, and	4. Coordinated admission and examination systems, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
5. Joint quality assurance.	5. Joint quality assurance.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Sections 10, 16, and 33 apply to these degree programs. Compliance with the criteria listed in paragraph 1, items 1 through 5, shall be reviewed.	~~Sections 10, 16, and 33 apply to these degree programs. Compliance with the criteria listed in paragraph 1, items 1 through 5, will be reviewed.~~	This paragraph appears elsewhere in the state ordinance. This is therefore an editorial change.
(2) Qualifications and periods of study are recognized in accordance with the Act on the Convention of April 11, 1997, on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in the European Region, dated May 16, 2007 (Federal Law Gazette 2007 II, pp. 712, 713) (Lisbon Convention). The ECTS is applied in accordance with Sections 7 and 8(1), and the distribution of credit points is regulated. For a bachelor's degree, 180 to 240 credit points must be earned, and for a master's degree, no fewer than 60 credit points. Essential program information is published and accessible to students at all times. In all other respects, the provisions of Part 2 do not apply.	~~(2)~~ Qualifications and periods of study are recognized in accordance with ~~the Act of May 16, 2007~~, ~~on~~ the Convention of April 11, 1997, on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in the European Region (Federal Law Gazette 2007 II, pp. 712~~, 713)~~ ~~(Lisbon Convention~~). ~~The ECTS is applied~~ in accordance with Sections 7 and 8(1), ~~and the distribution of credit points is regulated.~~ These provisions apply to joint degree programs. A total of 180 to 240 ECTS credits are required for a bachelor's degree, and ~~no fewer~~ than 60 ECTS credits are required for a master's degree. Essential program information is published and accessible to students at all times. In all other respects, the provisions of Part 2 do not apply.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) If a joint program is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education in foreign countries that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners), then, upon application by the domestic institution of higher education, paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis if the non-European cooperation partners commit in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to accreditation in accordance with the criteria and procedural rules set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 as well as in §§ 16(1) and 33(1).	(3) If a joint program is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education together with one or more institutions of higher education from foreign countries that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners), then, upon application by the domestic institution of higher education, ~~paragraphs 1~~ and 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis if the non-European cooperation partners commit in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to undergo accreditation in accordance with the criteria and procedural rules set forth in ~~paragraphs 1 and~~ 2 as well as in §§ 16, paragraph 1, 1 and § 33, paragraph 1.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 3: Academic and Content-Related Criteria for Degree Programs and Quality Management Systems	**Part 3 – Academic and Content-Related Criteria for Degree Programs and Quality Management Systems**	
§ 11 Qualification Objectives and Degree Level	**§ 11 Qualification Objectives and Degree Level**	

(1) The qualification objectives and the intended learning outcomes are clearly formulated, publicly accessible, and demonstrably take into account the objectives of higher education specified in Article 2, paragraph 3, item 1 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation. The dimension of personal development also encompasses the future civic, political, and cultural roles of graduates. Upon graduation, students should be able to play a decisive role in shaping social processes in a critical and reflective manner, with a sense of responsibility and democratic civic spirit.	(1) 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~~ State Treaty on Study Accreditation, Paragraph 3, No. 1 of the State Treaty on Study Accreditation. The dimension of personal development also encompasses the future civic, political, and cultural roles of graduates. Upon graduation, students should be able to play a decisive role in shaping social processes in a critical and reflective manner, with a sense of responsibility and democratic civic spirit.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) The subject-specific and academic/artistic requirements encompass the aspects of knowledge and understanding (expansion, deepening, and comprehension of knowledge), the application, use, and generation of knowledge/art (utilization and transfer, academic innovation), communication and cooperation, as well as academic/artistic self-concept and professionalism, and are consistent with the level of the degree awarded.	(2) The subject-specific, scientific, and artistic requirements encompass the aspects 1. knowledge and understanding (in the sense of broadening, deepening, and comprehending knowledge~~),~~ 2. The application, use, and generation of knowledge and art (~~in the sense of~~ utilization and transfer, scientific innovation~~),,~~ 3. communication and cooperation, as well as 4. scientific and artistic self-concept, as well as professionalism~~, and are consistent with the level of education provided upon graduation~~.	According to information from the Ministry, the phrase “and are consistent with the level of qualification conferred” was not included for formal reasons (concerns regarding the specificity of the wording). Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) Bachelor's degree programs serve to impart scientific fundamentals, methodological competence, and profession-specific qualifications, and ensure a broad scientific or artistic qualification. Consecutive Master's degree programs are designed as programs that deepen, broaden, or are interdisciplinary or in a different field. Professional Master's degree programs require qualified professional experience of generally no less than one year. The program design of professional master's degree programs takes professional experience into account and builds upon it to achieve the qualification objectives. In designing the program, the institution outlines the relationship between professional qualifications and the academic offerings, as well as the equivalence of the requirements for consecutive master's degree programs. Artistic degree programs foster and further develop the ability for artistic creation.	(3) Bachelor's degree programs serve to impart scientific fundamentals, methodological competence, and profession-specific qualifications, and ensure a broad scientific or artistic qualification. Consecutive master's degree programs are designed as programs that deepen, broaden, or are interdisciplinary in nature, or that focus on different subject areas. Continuing Education: For continuing education master's programs, qualified professional experience of generally no less than one year is required. The curriculum for continuing education Master's programs takes professional experience into account and builds upon it to achieve the program's learning objectives. In designing the program, the institution outlines the relationship between professional qualifications and the academic offerings, as well as the equivalence of the requirements compared to consecutive Master's programs. Artistic programs foster and further develop the ability to create art.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 12 Coherent Program Concept and Adequate Implementation	**§ 12 Coherent Program Concept and Adequate Implementation**	

(1) The curriculum is appropriately structured, taking into account the specified entry requirements and with a view to achieving the program objectives. The program objectives, the program title, the degree awarded, and -designation, and the module concept are coherently aligned with one another. The degree program concept encompasses diverse forms of teaching, learning, and assessment—adapted to the respective academic culture and program format—as well as practical components where applicable. It creates suitable conditions to promote student mobility, enabling students to spend time at other institutions without losing academic progress. It actively involves students in the design of teaching and learning processes (student-centered teaching and learning) and provides opportunities for students to shape their own course of study. The degree program, course of study, 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.	(1) The curriculum is appropriately structured, taking into account the specified entry qualifications and with a view to achieving the program's learning outcomes. The learning outcomes, the program title, the degree and its designation, and the module concept are coherently aligned with one another. The program concept encompasses a diverse range of ~~teaching,~~ learning, and assessment methods adapted to the respective academic culture and program format, as well as practical components where applicable. It creates suitable conditions to promote student mobility, enabling students to spend time at other institutions of higher education without losing academic progress. It actively involves students in the design of teaching and learning processes (student-centered teaching and learning) and provides opportunities for students to shape their own course of study. The degree program, course of study, 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.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The curriculum is implemented by teaching staff with sufficient subject-matter and methodological-didactic qualifications. The integration of research and teaching is ensured in accordance with the profile of the institution, in particular through full-time professors in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The institution takes appropriate measures for staff selection and qualification.	(2) The curriculum is implemented by a sufficient number of faculty members who are qualified in their respective disciplines and in teaching methodology. The integration of research and teaching is ensured in accordance with the profile of the institution, particularly through full-time professors, in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The institution takes appropriate measures for faculty selection and qualification.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The degree program also has adequate resources (in particular, non-academic staff, facilities, and equipment, including IT infrastructure, teaching and learning materials).	(3) The degree program also has adequate resources (in particular, non-academic staff, facilities and equipment—including IT infrastructure—as well as teaching and learning materials).	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) Exams and types of exams enable a meaningful assessment of the learning outcomes achieved. They are module-based and competency-oriented.	(4) Exams and types of exams enable a meaningful assessment of the learning outcomes achieved. They are module-based and competency-oriented.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(5) The ability to complete the program within the standard period of study is guaranteed. This includes, in particular,	(5) The ability to complete the program within the standard period of study is guaranteed. This includes, in particular,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. a predictable and reliable academic program,	1. predictable and reliable academic operations,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. courses and exams that largely do not overlap,	2. courses and exams to overlap as little as possible,	Editorial changes / no deviations.

3. a reasonable average workload commensurate with the exam load, whereby the learning outcomes of a module must be designed so that they can generally be achieved within one semester or one year, as validated by regular surveys, and	3. a plausible average workload commensurate with the examination load, whereby the learning outcomes of a module are to be measured in such a way that they can generally be achieved within one semester or one year, which is validated through regular surveys, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. An adequate and workload-appropriate frequency and organization of examinations, which is coherently justified in an examination concept and whose appropriateness in terms of workload is regularly evaluated with student input as part of the program's ongoing development in accordance with § 14; modules should have a scope of at least five ECTS credits.	4. an adequate and workload-appropriate examination frequency and organization, which is coherently justified in an examination concept and whose appropriateness in relation to the workload is regularly assessed with student input as part of the program's further development in accordance with § 14; modules should have a scope of at least five ECTS credits.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(6) Degree programs with a distinctive profile shall have a coherent program concept that appropriately reflects the distinctive characteristics of the profile.	(6) Degree programs with a distinctive profile shall have a coherent program concept that appropriately reflects the distinctive characteristics of the profile.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(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.	(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.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 13 Academic and Content-Related Design of Degree Programs	**§ 13 Academic and Content-Related Design of Degree Programs**	

(1) The timeliness and adequacy of the academic and scientific requirements are ensured. The academic and content-related design and the methodological and didactic approaches of the curriculum are continuously reviewed and adapted to academic and didactic developments. To this end, systematic consideration is given to academic discourse at the national and, where applicable, international level.	(1) The timeliness and appropriateness of the academic and scientific requirements in degree programs are ensured. The academic content and the methodological and pedagogical approaches of the curriculum are continuously reviewed and adapted to academic and pedagogical developments. To this end, academic discourse at the national and, where applicable, international levels is systematically taken into account.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) In degree programs that provide the educational prerequisites for a teaching career, accreditation is based both on the evaluation of educational sciences and subject-specific disciplines, as well as their didactics, in accordance with state-wide and state-specific subject requirements, and on the state-wide and state-specific structural guidelines for teacher education.	(2) In degree programs that provide the educational prerequisites for a teaching career, accreditation is based both on the evaluation of educational sciences and subject-specific disciplines, as well as their didactics, in accordance with state-wide and state-specific subject requirements, and on the state-wide and state-specific structural guidelines for teacher education.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) In the context of the accreditation of teacher education programs, it must be examined in particular whether	(3) In the context of the accreditation of teacher education programs, it must be examined in particular whether	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. an integrated program at universities or equivalent institutions of higher education comprising at least two subject areas and educational sciences during both the bachelor's and master's phases (exceptions are permitted for the subjects of art and music),	1. An interdisciplinary program of study at universities or equivalent institutions of higher education comprising at least two academic disciplines and educational sciences ~~during both the bachelor's and master's phases (exceptions are permitted for the disciplines of art and music),~~ in the	Editorial changes / no deviations.

	Bachelor's program as well as in the Master's program,	
2. practical teaching experience already during the bachelor's program, and	2. practical teaching experience already during the bachelor's program, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. Differentiation of the degree program and degrees by teaching certification	3. Differentiation of the degree program and degrees by teaching certification	Editorial changes / no deviations.
have been made. Exceptions to sentence 1, items 1 and 2, are permitted for teaching positions at vocational schools and for master's programs for career changers.	have been made. Exceptions to sentence 1, items 1 and 2, are permitted for teaching positions ~~at~~ vocational ~~-~~schools and for master's programs for career changers, as well as with regard to sentence 1, item 1, for the subjects of art and music.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 14 Academic Performance	**§ 14 Academic Performance**	
The program is subject to continuous monitoring with the participation of students and graduates. Based on this, measures to ensure academic success are developed. These are continuously reviewed, and the results are used for the further development of the program. The parties involved are informed of the results and the measures taken, in compliance with data protection regulations.	The degree program is subject to continuous monitoring with the participation of students and graduates. Based on this, measures to ensure academic success are developed. These measures are continuously reviewed, and the results are used to further develop the degree program. Those involved are informed of the results and the measures taken, ~~in compliance with data protection regulations~~.	According to information from the Ministry, the reference to data protection requirements was not included, as data protection law applies in any case.

§ 15 Diversity, Gender Equality, and Compensating for Disadvantages	**§ 15 Diversity, Gender Equality, and Compensating for Disadvantages**	
The university has policies in place to address diversity, promote gender equity, and support equal opportunities for students in special life circumstances, which are implemented at the program level.	The university has policies in place to address diversity, promote gender equity, and support equal opportunities for students in special life circumstances, which are implemented at the program level.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 16 Special Provisions for Joint Programs	**§ 16 Special Provisions for Joint Programs**	
(1) For joint programs, the provisions in § 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, as well as § 12, paragraph 1, sentences 1 through 3; paragraph 2, sentence 1; paragraphs 3 and 4, and § 14 apply mutatis mutandis. In all other respects, the provisions of Part 3 do not apply. In addition, the following applies:	(1) For joint programs pursuant to § 10(2), the provisions of § 11(1) and (2), as well as § 12(1), sentences 1 through 3, paragraph 2, first sentence, paragraphs 3 and 4, and , and § 14 apply mutatis mutandis. In all other respects, the provisions of Part 3 do not apply. In addition, the following applies:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. The admission requirements and selection procedures are appropriate to the level and the academic discipline in which the degree program is offered.	1. The admission requirements and selection procedures shall be appropriate to the academic level and the academic discipline in which the degree program is offered.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. It can be demonstrated that the program achieves the intended learning outcomes.	2. It can be demonstrated that the program achieves the intended learning outcomes.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

3. Where applicable, the provisions of Directive 2005/36/EC of September 7, 2005 (OJ L 255, September 30, 2005, pp. 22–142) on the recognition of professional qualifications, as last amended by Directive 2013/55/EU of January 17, 2014 (OJ L 354 of December 28, 2013, pp. 132–170).	3. Where applicable, the provisions of Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of September 7, 2005 ~~(OJ L 255, September 30, 2005, pp. 22–142)~~ on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255, September 30, 2005, p. 22; L 271, October 16, 2007, p. 18; L 93, April 4, 2008, p. 28; L 33, February 3, 2009, p. 49; L 305 of Oct. 24, 2014, p. 115; L 177 of July 8, 2015, p. 60; L 268 of October 15, 2015, p. 35; L 95 of April 9, 2016, p. 20), as last amended by Commission Delegated Directive ~~2013/55/~~(EU ~~of January 17, 2014)~~ 2024/782 of March 4, March 2024 (OJ ~~L 354, Dec. 28, 2013, pp. 132–170~~L, 2024/782, May 31, 2024).	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. In the provision of academic support, the design of the degree program, and the teaching and learning methods used, the diversity of students and their needs are respected, and the specific requirements of mobile students are taken into account.	4. In the provision of academic support, the design of the degree program, and the teaching and learning methods used, the diversity of students and their needs are respected, and the specific requirements of mobile students are taken into account.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
5. The university's quality management system ensures the implementation of the above provisions and those specified in § 17.	5. The university's quality management system ensures the implementation of the above provisions and those specified in § 17.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) If a joint program is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education from foreign countries that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners), then, upon application by the domestic institution of higher education, paragraph 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis if the non-European cooperation partners agree in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to undergo accreditation in accordance with the criteria and procedural rules set forth in paragraph 1, as well as those in §§ 10(1) and (2) and Section 33(1).	~~(2) If a joint program is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education in foreign countries that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners), then~~(2) With respect to joint programs under § 10(3), paragraph (1) shall apply mutatis mutandis upon application by the domestic institution of higher education if the non-European cooperation partners have committed in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to undergo accreditation in accordance with the criteria and procedural rules set forth in paragraph (1) as well as those in ~~the~~ §§§ 10~~(1)~~ and (2) and § 33(1).	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 17 Concept of the Quality Management System of System-Accredited Institutions of Higher Education (Objectives, Processes, Instruments)	**§ 17 Concept of the Quality Management System at System-Accredited Institutions of Higher Education ~~(~~; Objectives, Processes, Instruments~~)~~**	

(1) The institution of higher education has central educational objectives for teaching, which are reflected in the institution's mission statement and in the curricula of its degree programs. The quality management system adheres to the values and standards of the mission statement for teaching and aims to continuously improve the quality of education. It ensures the systematic implementation of the requirements set forth in Parts 2 and 3. The institution has established and published institution-wide decision-making processes, areas of authority, and responsibilities for the establishment, review, further development, and discontinuation of degree programs, as well as the institution's own procedures for the accreditation of degree programs within the framework of its quality management system. The institution shall establish provisions regarding periods of validity and deadlines in accordance with §§ 26 and 27. The institution may specify shorter periods of validity and deadlines. If a quality management system provides for the formation of clusters, § 30(1) shall apply mutatis mutandis with regard to cluster sizes.	(1) The university has established central educational objectives for teaching, which are reflected in the university's mission statement and in the curricula of its degree programs. The quality management system adheres to the values and standards set forth in the mission statement for teaching and aims to continuously improve the quality of education. It ensures the systematic implementation of the requirements specified in Sections 2 and 3. The university has established and published university-wide the decision-making processes, areas of authority, and responsibilities for the establishment, review, further development, and discontinuation of degree programs, as well as the university's own procedures for the accreditation of degree programs within the framework of its quality management system. The university shall adopt provisions regarding periods of validity and deadlines in accordance with §§ 26 and 27. The institution may specify shorter periods of validity and deadlines. If a quality management system provides for the formation of clusters, § 30(1) shall apply mutatis mutandis with regard to cluster sizes.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The quality management system was developed with the participation of the university's constituent groups and with the involvement of external experts. It ensures the independence of quality assessments and includes procedures for handling internal conflicts as well as an internal grievance system. It is based on closed-loop control systems, covers all areas of the university's operations that are directly relevant to academic studies and teaching, and is equipped with adequate and sustainable resources. Its functionality and effectiveness with regard to the quality of academic programs are regularly reviewed by the university and continuously improved.	(2) The quality management system was developed with the participation of the university's constituent groups and with the involvement of external experts. It ensures the independence of quality assessments and includes procedures for handling internal conflicts at the university as well as an internal grievance system. It is based on closed-loop control systems, covers all areas of the university's operations that are directly relevant to academic studies and teaching, and is equipped with adequate and sustainable resources. Its functionality and effectiveness with regard to the quality of academic programs are regularly reviewed by the university and continuously improved.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 18 Measures for Implementing the Quality Management Concept of System-Accredited Institutions of Higher Education	**§ 18 Measures for Implementing the Quality Management Concept of System-Accredited Institutions of Higher Education**	

(1) The quality management system includes regular evaluations of degree programs and the areas of operation 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. If a need for action is identified, the necessary measures shall be taken and implemented.	(1) 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. If the evaluations indicate a need for action, the necessary measures will be taken and implemented.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) Insofar as, on the basis of the institution's quality management system, evaluations are also conducted of teacher education programs, teacher education programs with the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, Protestant theological programs leading to ordination, and other bachelor's and master's programs with the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology, the requirements for participation and approval pursuant to § 25(1), sentences 3 through 5, shall apply accordingly.	(2) If, on the basis ~~of the institution's~~ quality management system, evaluations are ~~also~~ conducted of teacher education programs, teacher education programs with the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, Protestant theological programs that qualify students for the pastoral ministry, and other bachelor's and master's degree programs ~~that include~~ Protestant or Catholic Theology ~~as~~ a combined subject, the requirements for participation and approval set forth in § 25(1), sentences 3 through 5, shall apply mutatis mutandis.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) The data required for the implementation of the quality management system shall be collected university-wide and on a regular basis.	(3) The data required for the implementation of the quality management system concept are collected university-wide and on a regular basis.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) The institution documents the evaluation of degree programs by the institution's internal quality management system, including the opinions of external stakeholders, as well as the measures taken, and informs members of the institution, the sponsoring body, and the state where the institution is located of this. To inform the public, it provides the Accreditation Council with the accreditation decisions and a brief summary of the quality assessment for publication. Section 29, sentence 2, applies accordingly.	(4) The institution shall document the evaluation of ~~its~~ degree programs under ~~its internal quality management system~~, including the opinions of external stakeholders and the measures taken, and shall regularly inform the institution's members, the sponsoring body, and the state in which it is located of this information. To inform the public, it shall provide the Accreditation Council with the accreditation decisions and a brief summary of the quality assessment for publication. Section 29, sentence 2, applies mutatis mutandis.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 19 Collaborations with Non-Higher-Education Institutions	**§ 19 Collaborations with non-higher-education institutions**	

If a higher education institution offers a degree program in cooperation with a non-higher-education institution, the higher education institution is responsible for compliance with the requirements set forth in Parts 2 and 3. The institution awarding the degree may not delegate decisions regarding the content and organization of the curriculum, admission, recognition, and credit transfer, the assignment and evaluation of examination performance, the administration of examination and student data, quality assurance procedures, or the criteria and procedures for selecting teaching staff.	If a higher education institution offers a degree program in cooperation with a non-higher-education institution, the higher education institution is responsible for ensuring compliance ~~with~~ the ~~requirements~~ set forth in Parts 2 and 3. The institution awarding the degree may not delegate decisions regarding the content and organization of the curriculum, admission, recognition, and credit transfer, the assignment and evaluation of examination performance, the administration of examination and student data, quality assurance procedures, or the criteria and procedures for selecting teaching staff.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 20 University Collaborations	**§ 20 University Collaborations**	
(1) If a higher education institution enters into a program-specific collaboration with another higher education institution, the degree-granting institution or institutions shall ensure the implementation and quality of the program concept. The nature and scope of the collaboration shall be described, and the agreements underlying the collaboration shall be documented.	(1) If a higher education institution enters into a program-specific collaboration with another higher education institution, the degree-granting institution or institutions shall ensure the implementation and quality of the program concept. The nature and scope of the collaboration shall be described, and the agreements underlying the collaboration shall be documented.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) If a system-accredited institution of higher education enters into a program-specific collaboration with another institution of higher education, the system-accredited institution may award the program the Accreditation Council's seal pursuant to § 22, paragraph 4, sentence 2, provided that it is itself a degree-granting institution and ensures the implementation and quality of the program concept. Paragraph 1, sentence 2, applies accordingly.	(2) If a system-accredited institution of higher education enters into a program-specific cooperation with another institution of higher education, ~~the system-accredited~~ institution may award the program the seal of the Accreditation Council pursuant to § 22 (4), sentence 2, provided that it is itself authorized to confer degrees and ensures the implementation and quality of the program concept. Paragraph 1, sentence 2, applies mutatis mutandis.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) In the case of cooperation between institutions of higher education at the level of their quality management systems, system accreditation of each participating institution is required. At the request of the cooperating institutions, a joint system accreditation procedure is permitted.	(3) In the case of cooperation between institutions of higher education at the level of their quality management systems, system accreditation of each participating institution is required. At the request of the cooperating institutions, a joint system accreditation procedure is permitted.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 21 Special Criteria for Bachelor's Degree Programs at Vocational Academies	**§ 21 Special Criteria for Bachelor's Degree Programs at Vocational Academies**	

(1) Full-time faculty members at vocational academies must meet the hiring requirements for professors at universities of applied sciences pursuant to § 44 of the Higher Education Framework Act, as published on January 19, 1999 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 18), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of November 15, 2019 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1622). To the extent that courses are primarily designed to impart practical skills and knowledge for which the hiring requirements for professors at universities of applied sciences are not necessary, these may be assigned to full-time faculty members for special tasks in accordance with § 56 of the Higher Education Framework Act and relevant state law. The proportion of instruction provided by full-time faculty members shall not be less than 40 percent. In exceptional cases, this may also include professors at universities of applied sciences or universities who teach part-time at a vocational academy, provided that they ensure continuity in the curriculum and consistency in the overall education program, as well as the mandatory supervision and advising of students; compliance with these requirements must be separately verified as part of the accreditation process for each individual degree program.	(1) ~~Full-time faculty members at vocational academies~~ must, in addition to the provisions of § 6a Nds. BAkadG, must meet the ~~hiring requirements for professors at universities of applied sciences pursuant to § 44 of the Higher Education Framework Act, as published on January 19, 1999 (BGBl. I, p. 18), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of November 15, 2019 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1622). To the extent that courses are primarily designed to impart practical skills and knowledge for which the appointment requirements for professors at universities of applied sciences are not necessary, these may be assigned to full-time instructors for special tasks in accordance with § 56 of the Higher Education Framework Act and relevant state law. The proportion of instruction provided by full-time faculty members shall not be less than 40 percent. In exceptional cases, this may also include professors at universities of applied sciences or universities who,~~ pursuant to Section 6a(2)(3)(b) of the Lower Saxony BAkadG~~, teach~~ at a vocational academy on a part-time basis~~, provided that~~ these instructors ~~ensure~~ continuity in the curriculum and consistency in the overall education program~~,~~ as well as the mandatory supervision and advising of students; the fulfillment of these requirements must be separately verified as part of the accreditation process for each individual bachelor's degree program.	Supplement to state legal requirements. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) Paragraph 1, sentence 1, applies mutatis mutandis to part-time faculty members who offer theory-based courses leading to ECTS credits or who participate as examiners in the supervision and evaluation of the bachelor's thesis. Courses as described in the first sentence may, in exceptional cases, also be offered by part-time faculty members who hold a relevant university degree or an equivalent qualification, as well as subject-specific and pedagogical qualifications and several years of relevant professional experience in accordance with the requirements of the course.	~~(2) Paragraph 1, sentence 1, applies mutatis mutandis to part-time~~(2) Part-time faculty members employed at the Vocational Academy who offer theory-based courses leading to ECTS credits or who serve as examiners in the assignment and evaluation of the bachelor's thesis must meet the hiring requirements for professors at universities of applied sciences. Courses as described in the first sentence may, in exceptional cases, also be offered by part-time faculty members employed at the Vocational Academy who hold a relevant university degree or an equivalent qualification, as well as subject-specific and pedagogical qualifications, and who have several years'—specifically five years'—of relevant professional experience in accordance with the requirements of the course.	Supplement to state-level requirements. Otherwise, editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) As part of the accreditation process, the following must also be reviewed:	(3) As part of the accreditation process under Section 6a(3) of the Lower Saxony BAkadG, the following must also be reviewed:	Supplement to state-level requirements.
1. the interaction between the different learning environments (academy and workplace),	1. the interaction between the various learning locations (Study Academy, Vocational Academy, and the workplace),	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. Ensuring quality and continuity in the curriculum and in the support and advising of students, given the unique staffing structure at vocational academies, and	2. Ensuring quality and continuity in the curriculum and in the support and advising of students, given the unique staffing structure at vocational academies, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.

3. the existence of a sustainable quality management system that encompasses the various learning locations.	3. the existence of a sustainable quality management system that encompasses the various learning locations.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 4: Procedural Rules for Program and System Accreditation	**Part 4 Procedural ~~Rules—~~Procedures for Program and System ~~Accreditation~~**	
§ 22 Decision of the Accreditation Council; Awarding of the Seal	**§ 22 Decision of the Accreditation Council~~;~~ Awarding of the Seal**	
(1) Upon application by the institution of higher education, the Accreditation Council shall decide on accreditation by determining compliance with the formal criteria and the academic and content-related criteria in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 5, sentence 1 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, in conjunction with Parts 2 and 3 of this regulatory ordinance. The basis for the decision regarding the formal criteria is an audit report pursuant to Article 4(3), first sentence, No. 2(b) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation. The basis for the decision regarding the academic and content-related criteria is an expert opinion pursuant to Article 3(2), first sentence, No. 4 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	(1) Upon application by the institution of higher education, the Accreditation Council shall decide on accreditation by determining compliance with the formal criteria and the academic and content-related criteria ~~pursuant to~~ Article 3~~, paragraph~~ 5, sentence 1 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation ~~in conjunction with~~ Parts 2 and 3 of this regulation. The decision pursuant to the first sentence is based on the audit report (Article 4, paragraph 3, sentence 1, No. 2, letter b of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, § 24, paragraph 3) For the ~~decision on the~~ formal criteria~~, an audit report in accordance with~~ and the expert opinion (Article ~~4(~~3~~),~~ second sentence, ~~No. 2, letter b of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.~~ Basis: No. 4 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, § 24(4) For the ~~decision on the~~ academic and content-related criteria, ~~an expert opinion must~~ be prepared ~~in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2, sentence 1, item 4~~ of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The decision shall be issued by electronic notice. It must be substantiated.	(2) The decision shall be issued by electronic notice. It must be substantiated.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The institution shall be given the opportunity to comment before the Accreditation Council makes its decision if the Council intends to deviate significantly from the evaluators' recommendation. The deadline for submitting comments is one month.	(3) The institution shall be given the opportunity to comment before the Accreditation Council makes its decision if the Council intends to deviate significantly from the evaluators' recommendation. The deadline for submitting comments is one month.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) Upon granting accreditation, the Accreditation Council awards its seal to the degree program or the quality management system. In the case of system accreditation, the institution is granted the right to award the Accreditation Council's seal itself for the degree programs it has reviewed.	(4) Upon granting accreditation, the Accreditation Council awards its seal to the degree program or the quality management system. In the case of system accreditation, the institution is granted the right to award the Accreditation Council's seal itself for the degree programs it has reviewed.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(5) The accreditation of Catholic theological degree programs that qualify students for the priesthood and the profession of pastoral assistant ("full theological program") takes place exclusively in the form of program accreditation. In the case of full-time and part-time theological degree programs, the Accreditation Council's decision requires the approval of the competent ecclesiastical authorities.	(5) The accreditation of Catholic theological degree programs that qualify students for the priesthood and the profession of pastoral assistant ~~("full theological degree program")~~ is granted exclusively in the form of program accreditation. The decision of the Accreditation Council requires the approval of the competent church authorities for both full-theological and partial-theological degree programs.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 23 Documents to Be Submitted	**§ 23 Documents to Be Submitted**	

(1) The following documents must be attached to the application:	(1) The following documents must be attached to the application for accreditation:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. Self-report of the institution of higher education,	1. Self-evaluation ~~report~~ of the institution, (Article 3(2), sentence 1, no. 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, § 24(2)),	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. an accreditation report from an agency accredited by the Accreditation Council, consisting of an audit report and an expert opinion; in the case of system accreditation, the audit report refers to the evidence specified in items 3 and 4,	2. an accreditation report from an agency accredited by the Accreditation Council, consisting of an audit report and an expert opinion~~;~~, in the case of system accreditation, the audit report must refer to the evidence specified in items 3 and 4,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. In the case of an application for system accreditation, additional evidence that at least one degree program has undergone the quality management system,	3. In the case of an application for system accreditation, additional evidence that at least one degree program has undergone the quality management system,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. For applications for system reaccreditation, evidence that, as a general rule, all bachelor's and master's degree programs have undergone the quality management system at least once.	4. For an application for system reaccreditation, proof that, as a general rule, all bachelor's and master's degree programs have undergone the quality management system at least once.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) For the documents referred to in paragraph 1, item 2, translations into German must be submitted if they are not written in German.	(2) For the documents referred to in paragraph 1, item 2, translations into German must be submitted if they are not written in German.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) As soon as the Accreditation Council makes an electronic data processing system available, it must be used.	(3) As soon as the Accreditation Council ~~makes~~ an electronic data processing system available, it must be used.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 24 Appointment of an Agency; Accreditation Report; Site Visit	**§ 24 Appointment of an Agency~~;~~ ~~Accreditation Assessment;~~ Accreditation Report; Site Visit**	
(1) The institution of higher education shall commission an agency approved by the Accreditation Council pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 3, , sentence 1, item 5 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation to evaluate the formal and subject-specific criteria and to prepare an accreditation report. For Catholic theology degree programs that qualify students for the priesthood or for the profession of pastoral assistant (“full theology program”), the evaluation is conducted by the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Degree Programs in Germany, which is authorized by the Accreditation Council.	(1) The institution of higher education commissions an agency accredited by the Accreditation Council pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 3, sentence 1, number 5 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation to evaluate the formal and substantive criteria and to prepare an accreditation report. For Catholic theological degree programs that qualify students for the priesthood or the profession of pastoral assistant ~~(“full theological degree program”),~~ the evaluation is conducted by the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Degree Programs in Germany, which is approved by the Accreditation Council.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The institution shall provide the Agency with a self-evaluation report that contains, at a minimum, information on the institution's quality objectives and on the formal and subject-specific criteria set forth in Parts 2 and 3. The institution's self-evaluation report, in the preparation of which the student representative body must be involved, shall not exceed 20 pages for program accreditation and 50 pages for system and cluster accreditation.	(2) The institution shall provide the Agency with a self-evaluation report that contains, at a minimum, information on the institution's quality objectives and on the formal and subject-specific criteria set ~~forth in Parts~~ 2 and 3. The institution's self-evaluation report, in the preparation of which the student body must be involved, shall not exceed 20 pages for program accreditation and 50 pages for system accreditation and bundled accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The review report is prepared by the Agency; for degree programs under Section 25(1), sentences 3 and 4, the review report requires the approval of the persons designated therein before it is forwarded to the Accreditation Council. The relevant standards for the review report are the formal criteria set forth in Part 2. It shall contain a recommendation regarding compliance with the formal criteria. The review report must be drafted using the template to be specified by the Accreditation Council. The institution must be informed immediately of any failure to meet a formal criterion.	(3) The review report is prepared by the Agency; for degree programs pursuant to § 25, paragraph 1, sentences 3 and 4, the review report must be approved by the persons designated by the Accreditation Council before it is forwarded to that body. The relevant standards for the review report are the formal criteria set forth in Part 2. It shall contain a recommendation regarding compliance with the formal criteria. The audit report must be prepared using the template to be specified by the Accreditation Council. The institution must be notified immediately of any failure to meet a formal criterion.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(4) The expert opinion is issued by the expert panel pursuant to § 25. The expert panel receives the review report referred to in paragraph 3. The relevant standards for the expert opinion are the subject-matter and content criteria set forth in Part 3. It contains a recommendation regarding compliance with the subject-matter and content criteria. The expert opinion must be drafted using the template to be specified by the Accreditation Council and shall not exceed 20 pages for program accreditation and 100 pages for system and cluster accreditation.	(4) The expert report is submitted by the expert panel pursuant to § 25. The expert panel receives the audit report referred to in paragraph 3. The relevant standards for the expert report are the subject-matter and content criteria set forth in Part 3. It contains a recommendation regarding compliance with the subject-matter and content criteria. The expert opinion must be drafted using the template to be specified by the Accreditation Council and shall not exceed 20 pages for program accreditation and 100 pages for system and cluster accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(5) As part of the evaluation of the academic and content-related criteria, the review panel generally conducts an on-site visit. In the case of the accreditation of a degree program that is not yet offered at the time the agency is commissioned (concept accreditation), the review panel may, by mutual agreement, waive the on-site visit. The same applies to the reaccreditation of a degree program.	(5) As part of the evaluation of the academic and content-related criteria, the review panel generally conducts an on-site visit. In the case of the accreditation of a degree program that is not yet offered at the time the agency is commissioned (concept accreditation), the review panel may, by mutual agreement, waive the on-site visit. The same applies to the reaccreditation of a degree program.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(6) If the report contains recommendations regarding conditions, the institution and the agency may agree on an additional procedural step to resolve the issues before submitting the application to the Accreditation Council.	(6) If the report contains recommendations regarding conditions, the institution and the agency may agree on an additional procedural step to resolve the issues before submitting the application to the Accreditation Council.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

§ 25 Composition of the Review Panel; Requirements for Reviewers	**§ 25 Composition of the Review Panel; Requirements for Reviewers**	
(1) In the case of program accreditation, the agencies' review panel shall consist of at least four members. It shall be composed as follows:	(1) In the case of program accreditation, the agencies' review panel shall consist of at least four members. It shall be composed as follows:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. at least two university faculty members with expertise in the relevant field,	1. at least two university faculty members with expertise in the relevant field,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. a representative from professional practice with expertise in the relevant field,	2. a representative from professional practice with expertise in the relevant field,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. a student with a related field of study.	3. a student with a related field of study.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

In the accreditation of degree programs that qualify students for admission to the preparatory service for a teaching career, a representative of the highest state authority responsible for the school system shall take the place of the person referred to in item 2; for teacher education programs with the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, a representative of the locally responsible diocese or regional church shall also be included. In the accreditation of theological degree programs that qualify students for the office of pastor, the priesthood, or the profession of pastoral assistant (“full theological degree”) and in all other bachelor’s and master’s degree programs with the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, a representative of the competent church authority shall take the place of the person referred to in paragraph 2. For the degree programs mentioned in sentences 3 and 4, the submission of the expert opinion pursuant to § 24(4), sentence 1, requires the consent of the persons named in each case; without this consent, the expert opinion shall not be submitted to the Accreditation Council.	In the accreditation of degree programs that qualify students ~~for admission~~ to the preparatory service for a teaching career, a representative ~~of the highest~~ state authority ~~responsible for the school system~~ within the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs shall take the place of the person referred to in sentence 2, No. 2; for teacher education programs with the combined major of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, a representative of the locally responsible diocese or regional church is additionally included. In the accreditation of theological degree programs that qualify students for the office of pastor, the priesthood, and the profession of pastoral assistant ~~(~~“~~(~~”“Full Theological Degree Program”) and in all other bachelor’s and master’s degree programs featuring the combined subject of Protestant or Catholic Theology/Religion, the person referred to in the second sentence, No. 2, shall be replaced by a representative of the competent church authority. For the degree programs mentioned in sentences 3 and 4, the expert opinion may be submitted to the Accreditation Council only if the ~~submission of the expert opinion, in accordance with § 24(4), sentence 1,~~ has been approved by ~~the~~ persons named in sentences 3 and 4, respectively~~; without this approval, the expert opinion shall not be submitted to the Accreditation Council~~.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) In the case of system accreditation, the agencies’ expert panel shall consist of at least five persons. It shall be composed as follows:	(2) In the case of system accreditation, the ~~agencies’~~ panel of ~~experts~~ shall consist of at least five persons. It shall be composed as follows:	Editorial changes / no deviations.

1. at least three university faculty members with relevant experience in quality assurance in the area of teaching,	1. at least three university faculty members with relevant experience in quality assurance in the area of teaching,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. a representative from the professional field,	2. a representative from the professional field,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. one student.	3. one student.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) University faculty members hold the majority of votes. In the respective review panel, the majority of reviewers must have experience with accreditation. In the case of system accreditation, the majority of reviewers must have experience with system accreditation.	(3) University faculty members hold the majority of votes. In the respective review panel, the majority of reviewers must have experience with accreditation. In the case of system accreditation, the majority of reviewers must have experience with system accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) The evaluators are appointed by the agency commissioned to prepare the accreditation report. In making these appointments, the agency is bound by the procedure to be developed by the German Rectors' Conference in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 3, sentence 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	(4) The evaluators shall be appointed by the agency commissioned to prepare the accreditation report. In making these appointments, the agency is bound by the procedure to be developed by the German Rectors' Conference in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 3, sentence 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(5) The following persons are ineligible to serve as evaluators:	(5) The following persons are excluded from serving as evaluators:	Editorial changes / no deviations.

1. is employed by or enrolled at the institution of higher education submitting the application for accreditation,	1. is employed by or enrolled at the institution of higher education submitting the application for accreditation,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. is employed by or enrolled at one of the institutions participating in the cooperative degree program or joint program, or	2. is employed by or enrolled at one of the institutions participating in the cooperative degree program or joint program, or	Editorial changes / no deviations.
3. is considered biased according to the rules customary in academia.	3. is considered biased according to the rules customary in academia.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(6) The Agency shall inform the institution of higher education of the composition of the review panel prior to the appointment of the reviewers. The institution of higher education has the right to submit comments within a period of two weeks.	(6) The Agency shall inform the university of the composition of the review panel prior to the appointment of the reviewers. The university ~~has the right to~~ comment within a period of two weeks.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 26 Term of Accreditation; Extension	**§ 26 Validity Period of Accreditation~~;~~ Extension**	
(1) Initial accreditation is valid for a period of eight years from the start of the semester or trimester in which the accreditation decision is announced. If, in the case of program accreditation, the degree program has not yet been launched, the accreditation takes effect as of the start of the semester or trimester in which the degree program is first offered, but no later than the start of the second semester or trimester following the announcement of the accreditation decision.	(1) Initial accreditation is valid for a period of eight years from the start of the semester or trimester in which the accreditation decision is announced. If, in the case of program accreditation, the degree program has not yet been launched, the accreditation takes effect as of the start of the semester or trimester in which the degree program is offered for the first time, but no later than the start of the second semester or trimester following the announcement of the accreditation decision .	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) Before the expiration of the accreditation period, an application for reaccreditation must be submitted; if successful, reaccreditation takes effect immediately following the previous accreditation. If the application is submitted in a timely manner as defined herein, the accreditation is extended for the duration of the administrative proceedings. Reaccreditation takes effect no later than the beginning of the second semester or trimester following the announcement of the accreditation decision. Reaccreditations are valid for a period of eight years.	(2) Before the expiration of the accreditation period, an application for reaccreditation must be submitted; if successful, reaccreditation takes effect immediately following the previous accreditation. If the application is submitted in a timely manner as defined herein, the accreditation is extended for the duration of the administrative proceedings. Reaccreditation takes effect no later than the beginning of the second semester or trimester following the announcement of the accreditation decision. Reaccreditations are valid for a period of eight years.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The validity period of the accreditation may be extended for a total period of up to two years if	(3) The validity period of the accreditation may be extended for a total period of up to two years if	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. in the case of program accreditation, the institution is preparing an application for bundled or system accreditation that includes the respective degree program, or	1. in the case of program accreditation, the institution is preparing an application for bundled or system accreditation that includes the respective degree program, or	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. the institution requests an extension of the deadline in justified exceptional cases that are wholly or partially beyond the institution's control; the extraordinary extension of the deadline in individual cases will be credited toward the next accreditation period.	2. the institution requests an extension of the deadline in justified exceptional cases that are wholly or partially beyond the institution's control; the extraordinary extension of the deadline in individual cases will be credited toward the next accreditation period.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

If an application for system accreditation has been submitted, the accreditation of degree programs whose accreditation expires during the proceedings may be extended for the duration of the proceedings 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.	If an application for system accreditation has been submitted, the accreditation of degree programs whose accreditation expires during the proceedings may be extended for the duration of the proceedings 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.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 27 Conditions	**§ 27 Conditions**	
(1) A deadline of generally twelve months shall be set for the fulfillment of a condition.	(1) A deadline of generally twelve months shall be set for the fulfillment of a condition pursuant to Article 9(1), second sentence, of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) In justified exceptional cases, the deadline may be extended upon application by the institution of higher education.	(2) In justified exceptional cases, the deadline may be extended upon application by the institution of higher education.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) Proof of compliance with the condition must be provided to the Accreditation Council.	(3) Proof of compliance with the condition must be provided to the Accreditation Council.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 28 Obligation to Report Changes	**§ 28 Obligation to Report Changes**	
(1) The institution of higher education is required to promptly notify the Accreditation Council of any material change to the subject matter of accreditation during the period of validity of the accreditation.	(1) The institution of higher education is required to promptly notify the Accreditation Council of any material change to the subject matter of accreditation during the period of validity of the accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The Accreditation Council shall decide whether the material change is covered by the existing accreditation.	(2) The Accreditation Council shall decide whether the material change is covered by the existing accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 29 Publication	**§ 29 Publication**	
The Accreditation Council's decision and the accreditation report shall be published by the Accreditation Council on its website. Upon publication, personal data may not be disclosed unless the data subject has given consent or obtaining the data subject's consent is not possible or would require a disproportionate effort, and it is evident that the disclosure is in the data subject's interest.	The Accreditation Council's decision and the accreditation report shall be published by the Accreditation Council on its website. Personal data may ~~not~~ be disclosed in the publication unless the data subject has given consent, or obtaining the data subject's consent ~~is~~ not possible or is possible only with disproportionate effort, and it is evident that the disclosure is in the data subject's interest.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 30 Bundled Accreditation; Partial System Accreditation	**§ 30 Bundled Accreditation~~;~~ Partial System Accreditation**	

(1) The expert panel's report pursuant to § 24(4) may cover multiple degree programs if they share a high degree of disciplinary affinity that goes beyond mere affiliation with a disciplinary field (humanities and cultural studies, social sciences, or natural sciences) (bundled accreditation). The academic and content-related criteria set forth in Part 3 must be assessed separately for each degree program. A bundle shall consist of no more than ten degree programs.	(1) The expert opinion of the review panel pursuant to § 24(4) may cover multiple degree programs if they share a high degree of disciplinary affinity that goes ~~beyond~~ mere affiliation with a disciplinary field (humanities and cultural studies, social sciences, or natural sciences) (bundled accreditation). The disciplinary and content-related criteria set forth in Part 3 must be assessed separately for each degree program. A bundle shall consist of no more than ten degree programs.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) Bundles containing more than four degree programs must be approved by the Accreditation Council prior to submission of the application. This applies to combined degree programs regardless of the size of the bundle.	(2) Bundles containing more than four degree programs must be approved by the Accreditation Council prior to submission of the application. This applies to combined degree programs regardless of the size of the bundle.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) In exceptional cases, an organizational unit of the institution responsible for academic programs may be the subject of system accreditation. This may be the case, in particular, if	(3) In exceptional cases, an organizational unit of the institution responsible for academic programs may be the subject of system accreditation. This may be the case, in particular, if	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. accreditation of the quality management system for the entire institution is not yet appropriate or feasible,	1. accreditation of the quality management system for the entire institution is not yet appropriate or not yet feasible,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. the quality management system of the organizational unit is integrated into the institution, and	2. the quality management system of the academic unit is integrated into the institution, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.

3. At least one degree program in the subunit has already been processed through this system.	3. At least one degree program within the academic unit of ~~this~~ system has already been evaluated under the quality management system.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 31 Random Sampling	**§ 31 Random Sampling**	
(1) In the case of system accreditation and partial system accreditation, the review panel shall conduct a random sample in accordance with § 25(2). The random sample shall be used to verify whether the intended effects of the quality management system under review are being achieved at the degree program level.	(1) In the case of system accreditation and partial system accreditation, the review panel shall conduct a random sample in accordance with § 25, paragraph 2. The random sample shall verify whether the intended effects of the quality management system under review are being achieved at the level of the degree program.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(2) The subject of the random sample is	(2) The subject of the random sample is	
1. the consideration of all criteria in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 within a degree program that has undergone the institution's quality management system, and	1. the consideration of all criteria in accordance with ~~Parts~~ 2 and 3 within a degree program that has undergone the institution's quality management system, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. the consideration of formal and subject-specific criteria in accordance with Parts 2 and 3, as determined by the review panel.	2. the consideration of formal and subject-matter criteria in accordance with Parts 2 and 3, as determined by the review committee.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
When selecting the sample, the review panel takes into account the university's range of academic disciplines in its teaching programs.	When selecting the sample, the review panel takes into account the university's range of academic disciplines in its teaching programs.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) If the institution offers degree programs that also prepare students for a regulated profession, one such program must additionally be included in the sample, taking into account the criteria set forth in Parts 2 and 3 that pertain to degree programs; The same applies in the case of teacher education programs—one program for each type of teaching certification offered—as well as to programs in Protestant or Catholic theology/religion. The sample shall include one representative designated by the authority responsible for the respective regulated profession, or one representative designated by the authority responsible for the respective regulated profession, or a representative of the highest state authority responsible for the school system, or a representative of the respective church authority.	(3) If the institution of higher education offers degree programs that also prepare students for a regulated profession, one such program must additionally be included in the sample~~, taking into account the criteria set forth in Parts 2 and 3 that pertain to degree programs~~; The same applies to teacher education programs—one program for each type of teaching certification offered—as well as to programs in Protestant or Catholic theology/religion. The sample shall include ~~one representative designated by the authority responsible for the respective regulated profession~~, ~~or~~ one representative designated by the authority responsible for the respective regulated profession, or one representative designated by the authority responsible for the respective regulated profession, or a representative of ~~the highest state authority responsible for the school system~~ within the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, or the respective church authority.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 5: Procedural Rules for Special Degree Programs	**Part 5 – Procedural Rules for Special Types of Degree Programs**	
§ 32 Combined Degree Programs	**§ 32 Combined Degree Programs**	
(1) If students select individual courses from a larger number of courses permitted for their program of study, each of these courses constitutes a sub-program as part of a combined degree program.	(1) If students select individual courses from a larger number of courses permitted for their program of study, each of these courses constitutes a sub-program as part of a combined degree program.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The subject of accreditation is the combined degree program. The institutions of higher education shall ensure, through their respective quality management systems, that the program is feasible in accordance with § 12(5) for all possible subject combinations.	(2) The subject of accreditation is the combined degree program. The institutions of higher education shall ensure, through their respective quality management systems, that the~~-~~ program is feasible in accordance with § 12(5) for all possible subject combinations.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(3) The accreditation of a combined degree program may be supplemented by the inclusion of additional elective sub-programs or fields of study. This does not alter the accreditation period for the combined degree program.	(3) The accreditation of a combined degree program may be supplemented by the inclusion of additional elective sub-programs or fields of study. This does not alter the accreditation period for the combined degree program.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(4) The accreditation certificate shall list all sub-programs or fields of study included in the accreditation. If the accreditation is supplemented in accordance with paragraph 3, a new accreditation certificate shall be issued.	(4) The accreditation certificate shall list all sub-programs or fields of study included in the accreditation. If the accreditation is expanded pursuant to paragraph 3, a new accreditation certificate shall be issued.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
(5) The provisions of Part 4 remain unaffected in all other respects.	(5) The provisions ~~of~~ Part 4 remain unaffected in all other respects.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 33 Joint Programs	**§ 33 Joint Programs**	

(1) For joint programs in which a domestic institution of higher education and other institutions from the European Higher Education Area participate, the accreditation decision may, in deviation from § 22(1), be made by recognizing the evaluation conducted by an agency listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). 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 §§ 10 and 16 of this regulation has been demonstrated and the evaluation process has met the following requirements:	(1) For joint ~~programs in which a domestic institution of higher education and other institutions from the European Higher Education Area participate,~~ programs pursuant to Section 10(2), the accreditation decision may, in deviation from § 22(1), be made by recognizing the evaluation conducted by an agency listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). 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 §§ 10 and 16 of this Regulation has been demonstrated and the evaluation process has met the following requirements:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
1. The Accreditation Council was notified of the conduct of the procedure prior to its commencement,	1. The Accreditation Council was notified of the conduct of the procedure prior to its commencement,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
2. The accreditation decision is based on a self-report submitted by the participating institutions, which includes, in particular, information on the respective national frameworks and highlights the distinctive features of the joint program,	2. The accreditation decision is based on a self-evaluation report from the cooperating institutions, which contains, in particular, information on the respective national framework conditions and highlights the distinctive features of the joint program,	Editorial changes / no deviations.

3. An on-site visit took place at at least one location of the degree program with the participation of representatives from all cooperating universities as well as other stakeholders,	3. An ~~on-site~~ visit took place at at least one location of the degree program with the participation of representatives from all cooperating universities as well as other stakeholders,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
4. The evaluation is based on an expert report that complies with the requirements for joint programs set forth in Parts 2 and 3,	4. The evaluation is based on an expert opinion that complies with the requirements of Joint Programmes in Parts 2 and 3,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
5. The review was conducted by a panel of at least four reviewers, composed as follows:	5. The review was conducted by a panel of at ~~least~~ four reviewers, composed of at least the following members:	Editorial changes / no deviations.
a. Members from at least two of the countries participating in the Joint Program,	a~~.~~) Members from at least two of the countries participating in the Joint Program,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
b. at least one student representative,	b~~.~~) at least one student representative,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
c. The panel of experts represents expertise in the relevant subjects and disciplines, including the labor market and the professional world in the relevant fields, as well as expertise in the area of quality assurance in higher education, and possesses knowledge of the higher education systems of the participating institutions and the languages of instruction used, and	~~c. the~~ panel of experts c) the panel of experts represents expertise in the relevant subjects and disciplines, including the labor market or the working world in the relevant fields, and expertise in the area of quality assurance in higher education, and possesses knowledge of the higher education systems of the participating institutions as well as the languages of instruction used, and	Editorial changes / no deviations.

d. The requirements set forth in § 25, paragraph 3, sentence 1, and paragraphs 5 and 6 have been met,	d~~.—~~) the requirements set forth in § 25, paragraph 3, sentence 1, and paragraphs 5 and 6 have been met,	Editorial changes / no deviations.
6. The assessment identifies the following characteristics: justification, finality, and, where applicable, demonstrated compliance with conditions and	6.— The assessment specifies the following characteristics~~:~~ "Reasoning~~;~~," "finality," and, where applicable, "demonstrated fulfillment of conditions," and	Editorial changes / no deviations.
7. The agency has published at least one summary of the expert opinion, including the assessment and rationale, on its website in English.	7. The agency has published at least one summary of the expert opinion, including the assessment and rationale, on its website in English.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Section 22, paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, sentence 1; Section 26, 1, sentence 1, and paragraph 2, sentence 1, as well as §§ 28 and 29, apply mutatis mutandis. 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 as defined in § 10, paragraph 1, nevertheless apply mutatis mutandis. The accreditation period, in deviation from Section 26, paragraph 1, sentence 1, and paragraph 2, sentence 2: six years. Upon publication, the decision shall be identified as an accreditation decision based on the separate procedure for joint programs. The institution must clearly indicate this in the degree certificates.	The provisions of § 22, paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, sentence 1, of § 26, paragraph 1, sentence 1, and paragraph 2, first sentence, as well as §§ 28 and 29, apply mutatis mutandis, with the exception of the accreditation period, which, notwithstanding § 26, paragraph 1, first sentence, and paragraph 2, second sentence, is six years. If the accreditation decision is not made in accordance with the first sentence, in deviation from § 22, the provisions of §§ 10 and 16 for joint programs as defined in § 10(1) ~~shall~~ nevertheless apply mutatis mutandis. ~~The accreditation period, in deviation from § 26(1), first sentence, and (2), second sentence, is six years.~~ Upon publication, the decision shall be identified as an accreditation decision based on the separate procedure for joint programs. The institution of higher education must clearly indicate this in the degree certificates.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) If a joint program is coordinated and offered by a domestic institution of higher education together with one or more institutions of higher education from foreign countries that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners), then, upon request by the domestic institution of higher education, paragraph (1) shall apply mutatis mutandis if the non-European cooperation partners agree in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to undergo accreditation in accordance with the criteria set forth in paragraph (1), as well as those in § 10, paragraphs (1) and (2), and Section 16(1).	(2) If a joint program is coordinated and offered ~~by a domestic institution of higher education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education~~ from ~~foreign~~ countries pursuant to § 10(3) ~~that do not belong to the European Higher Education Area (non-European cooperation partners),~~ then, upon application by the domestic institution of higher education, paragraph (1) shall apply mutatis mutandis if the non-European cooperation partners agree in the cooperation agreement with the domestic institution of higher education to undergo accreditation in accordance with the criteria set forth in paragraph (1) as well as those in ~~the~~ §§§ 10(1) and sentence 2, and § 16(1).	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 6 Alternative Accreditation Procedures Pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 1, Item 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation	**Part 6—Alternative Accreditation Procedures Pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 1, Item 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation**	
Section 34 Alternative Accreditation Procedures	**Section 34 Alternative Accreditation Procedures**	
(1) In addition to the two procedures regulated in Part 4, alternative procedures for ensuring and developing quality in academic programs and teaching may also be implemented in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, item 3 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	(1) In addition to the two procedures set forth in Part 4, alternative procedures for ensuring and developing the quality of academic programs and teaching may also be implemented in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, item 3 of the State Treaty on Academic Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) In alternative procedures, the criteria set forth in Parts 2 and 3 of this Regulation must be observed. The provisions of the first sentence of Article 3(2) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as the principles governing the appropriate involvement of the academic community set forth in the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and in this Regulation, apply mutatis mutandis; likewise, the requirements for participation and consent pursuant to § 18(2) apply mutatis mutandis.	(2) For other procedures within the meaning of Article 3(1)(3) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (alternative accreditation procedures), the criteria set forth ~~in~~ Parts 2 and 3 of this Regulation must be observed. The provisions of Article 3(2), ~~first~~ sentence, of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as the principles governing the appropriate involvement of the academic community set forth in the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and in this Regulation, shall apply mutatis mutandis; likewise, the requirements for participation and consent pursuant to § 18(2) shall apply mutatis mutandis.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(3) The implementation of alternative procedures requires the prior approval of the Accreditation Council and the competent academic authority of the respective state; the Accreditation Council may arrange for an external review. The application must be submitted to the Accreditation Council via the competent academic authority. In consultation with the state, the Accreditation Council may refuse its approval only if the alternative procedure does not comply with the requirements of Article 2 and the provisions of Article 3(2), first sentence, of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as the principles for the appropriate participation of the academic community set forth in the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and in this ordinance. The alternative procedure should be suitable for gaining fundamental insights into alternative approaches to external quality assurance beyond the procedures specified in Article 3(1)(1) and (2) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	(3) The implementation of alternative procedures within the meaning of Article 3(1)(3) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (alternative accreditation procedures) requires the prior approval of the Accreditation Council and the ~~state science authority~~ responsible for higher education institutions ~~in the respective state;~~ the Ministry. The Accreditation Council may order an external review of the alternative accreditation procedure. The application must be submitted to the Accreditation Council through the science authority responsible for higher education institutions. The Accreditation Council may, in consultation with the state ministry responsible for higher education institutions, refuse its approval only if the alternative accreditation procedure does not comply with the requirements set forth in Article 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 2, sentence 1 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as the principles for the appropriate involvement of the academic community set forth in the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and in this ordinance. The alternative accreditation procedure shall be designed to yield fundamental insights into alternative approaches to external quality assurance beyond the procedures specified in Article 3, paragraph 1, items 1 and 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(4) The Accreditation Council shall develop rules of procedure that, in particular, govern the requirements for filing an application.	(4) The Accreditation Council shall develop rules of procedure that, in particular, govern the requirements for the application referred to in paragraph 3, sentence 2.	According to information from the responsible state ministry, there is a reference error here: The reference should be to the application pursuant to § 34(3), third sentence, of the State Ordinance.
(5) The alternative procedure is limited to a maximum of eight years. § 22, paragraph 4, sentence 2, and § 26, paragraph 3, sentence 2, apply mutatis mutandis. It is overseen by the Accreditation Council and must generally be evaluated by an independent, research-oriented institution two years before the end of the project period.	(5) ~~The alternative~~ procedure: Accreditation under the alternative procedure shall be limited to a maximum of eight years. Section 22(4), second sentence, and Section 26(3), second sentence, apply mutatis mutandis. The alternative accreditation procedure is overseen by the Accreditation Council and must generally be evaluated by an independent, science-oriented institution two years before the expiration of the project period specified in the first sentence.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
Part 7 Miscellaneous	**Part 7 Miscellaneous—Final Provisions**	
§ 35 Relationship to Procedures Concerning the Suitability of a Degree Program for Professional Licensing Purposes	**§ 35 Relationship to Procedures Concerning the Suitability of a Degree Program for Professional Licensing Purposes**	
(1) Accreditation procedures pursuant to Article 3 (1)(1) and Article 3(1) item 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation may, upon application by the institution of higher education, be organizationally combined with proceedings that determine the eligibility of a degree program under professional licensing law.	(1) Accreditation procedures pursuant to Article 3 paragraph 1, item 1, and ~~Article 3, paragraph 1, No.~~ 2 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation may, upon application by the institution of higher education, be organizationally linked to procedures that determine the eligibility of a degree program under professional licensing law.	Editorial changes / no deviations.

(2) The participation of external experts to be appointed in addition to the other representatives from professional practice, in an advisory capacity, in the review committees pursuant to § 25, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, shall be effected through nomination by the state authority responsible for the respective regulated profession.	(2) The participation of external experts to be appointed in addition to the other ~~representatives or~~ representatives from professional practice, in an advisory capacity, in the review committees pursuant to § 25, ~~paragraphs~~ 1 and 2, shall be effected through nomination by the state authority responsible for the respective regulated profession.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
§ 36 Evaluation	**§ 36 Evaluation**	
The regulation shall be reviewed regularly and within a reasonable timeframe.	The regulation shall be reviewed periodically and within a reasonable timeframe.	Editorial changes / no deviations.
	§ 37 Transitional Provisions	
	(1) In the case described in § 12(5), second sentence, item 4—where, pursuant to the version of this regulation in effect through July 31, 2025, a condition within the meaning of § 27 is to be imposed—the Accreditation Council may, if there is insufficient information available, require as a condition that the appropriateness of the workload be demonstrated as part of the examination concept.	Transitional provisions are not included in the MRVO but only in the state ordinances. The transitional provision in the state ordinance corresponds to the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Science.
	(2) For applications submitted by March 31, 2026 are set forth in § 11(1), first sentence; § 12 (1), sentence 6; § 15; § 17(1), sentences 5, 6, and 7; and § 30(2) of the Regulation shall continue to apply in the version in effect through August 1, August 2025. For applications submitted after April 1, 2026, this regulation shall be applied in the version effective as of August 1, 2025.	Transitional provisions are not included in the MRVO, but only in the state ordinances. The transitional provision in the state ordinance corresponds to the recommendations of the Conference of Science Ministers. However, there are minor differences among the states regarding the end of the transitional period. According to this state ordinance, the new state ordinance will apply in full to applications

		submitted on or after
		April 2, 2026, the new state ordinance applies in full.
§ 37 Entry into Force	**§ 3738 Entry into Force**	
	This ordinance shall enter into force on August 1, 2025.	Naturally, provisions regarding entry into force are found only in the state ordinance.