



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO)

No. 09
Series 2003

SUBJECT: ADDENDUM TO CMO NO. 36, S. 1998 ENTITLED
"POLICIES AND STANDARDS ON GRADUATE
EDUCATION"

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994" and taking into consideration the requests of higher education institutions (HEIs) with no Level III accreditation status to offer graduate degree programs, the following standards and/or rules are hereby issued :

1.0. PURPOSE

This CMO is being issued to prescribe an alternative to the requirement of Level III accreditation for graduate education programs specified in Section 3 of CMO No. 36, s. 1998, to wit "Level III accreditation of undergraduate programs including arts and sciences, shall be a major consideration in granting permits to open new graduate programs, except those graduate programs which traditionally do not have undergraduate bases, and in cases where the Commission believes that the opening of such programs will contribute significantly to the development of high-level manpower in undersubscribed and critical disciplines."

2.0. DEFINITION

Level III Accreditation is a status where programs have met the following additional criteria/guidelines set by the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) for this level, such as: (a) a set of reasonably high standards of instruction as manifested by the quality of its teachers; (b) a highly visible community extension program; (c) a highly visible research tradition; (d) a strong staff development tradition as evidenced by an appropriate budgetary allocation and/or systematic plan for staff development programs; and (e) existence of working consortia or linkages with other schools and/or agencies.

Level III accreditation serves as an indicator that a program has attained higher levels of quality and excellence over and above the minimum requirements of CHED.

3.0. SCOPE/COVERAGE

These policies and guidelines shall govern current and pending applications of higher education institutions for permit to offer graduate programs.

4.0. ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA

The Commission recognizes that some programs in graduate education have no equivalent programs in the undergraduate level that are included in the accreditation system of accrediting agencies (like Law and Medicine) or were instituted only recently (like Information Technology), or have no undergraduate counterparts (such as Environmental Management and other highly specialized programs).

Thus, the following are to be considered as alternatives to Level III accreditation for these programs: (1) The higher education institution has Level III accreditation in the Liberal Arts or in a discipline closely related to the program for which government authority is being sought; or (2) The higher education institution is a Center of Excellence (or where no COEs have been identified, a Center of Development) in the discipline of the program for which government authority is being sought or in a closely related discipline. **In addition**, a strong research program in the area of study being applied for is required.

A strong research program should be indicated by the following:

- 4.1 **Research Unit.** The university should have a research unit that manages, monitors and evaluates research activities, and manned by permanent staff.
- 4.2 **Pool of qualified faculty.** The HEI should have faculty members who are holders of masters and/or doctorate degree responsible for handling the research activities specific to the discipline being applied for. For those applying to offer a master's degree program, the faculty profile should be 25% MS degree holders and 75% should be PhDs. For those applying to offer doctorate degree programs, the faculty members must all be PhD. holders.
- 4.3 **Policies.** The HEI should have policies and guidelines on benefits and incentives for faculty undertaking research work e.g. deloading, research awards, patents and intellectual property rights (IPR).

- 4.4 **Research Agenda.** The HEI should have a clearly stated research agenda that includes the discipline being applied for. This agenda ideally should: 1) be anchored on the institution's philosophy and framework, 2) be responsive to identified goals and prioritized niches in the arts and sciences, 3) be aligned with the National Higher Education Research Agenda (NHERA) and other research thrusts, and 4) answer the needs of industry for economic development.
- 4.5 **Publication and Presentation in Conferences.** The HEI should show proof of publications in refereed national and international journals in the specified discipline. The faculty members should likewise present their research accomplishments in local and international fora.
- 4.6 **Research Unit Facilities.** The research unit shall have adequate facilities for the conduct of research in the specified discipline.
- 4.7 **Research Budget.** In order to ensure the continuous operation of the Research Unit and the conduct of research in the college/university, it is imperative that a provision for a reasonable budget of at least 2% of the total school budget be allotted for its research undertakings.

Immediate dissemination of this Order is desired.

Pasig City, Philippines, May 13, 2003



ESTER ALBANO GARCIA
Chairperson

REFERENCES:

- CMO No. 36, s. 1998, "Policies and Standards on Graduate Education"
CHED Order No. 31, s. 1995, "Policies on Voluntary Accreditation in Aid of Quality and Excellence in Higher Education"
Manual of Regulation for Private Schools
Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP), 2002-2003 Directory
Batas Pambansa Bilang 232, "Education Act of 1992"
Presidential Decree 639