

MPHEC

Quality Assurance

Jean-François Richard, Ph.D.

Chair

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission



Table of Contents



1. History of the MPHEC
2. Governance structure
3. MPHEC Mission
4. MPHEC Mandate
5. Core Functions
6. Overview of QA function

History



1974 – MPHEC established to assist the provinces and institutions in attaining a more efficient utilization and allocation of resources in PSE.

1997 – The Ministers agreed to renew and refocus the MPHEC’s mandate on “improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as life-long learners.” An MOU was drafted.

2005 – A new MPHEC Act enabling the 1997 MOU was enacted.

Governance



Arm's-length

Accountable to CAMET

20 Board members & 12 staff

Board made up of representatives of:

- Universities
- Public-at-large / Students
- Government & Non-Government Leaders

AAU-MPHEC QA Committee

MPHEC Executive & Governance Committee

MPHEC Finance Committee

Mission

To assist institutions and governments in enhancing the post-secondary learning environment.



MPHEC Mandate

(as per Act)



Core Functions (as per Act)



Quality Assurance

- Assessment of programs prior to implementation
- Ongoing quality assurance monitoring



Data and Information

- PSIS
- Graduate Outcomes Survey Program
- Data and research products
- Measures of student progress and outcomes



Interprovincial Agreements

- Atlantic Veterinary College
- Medical Education
- Optometry
- Regional Transfer Arrangement



Financial and Other Services

- NB
- PEI
- NS
- Conduct assessments under provincial Degree Granting Acts



Cooperative action

- Guiding principle
- NB/PEI Education Computer Network (ECN)
- Workshops, forums, etc.

Quality Assurance

What, Why, How?



Quality Assurance

What?



In carrying-out our work in quality in assurance, the Commission recognises that:

1. Institutions are autonomous and responsible to their boards for designing and implementing quality programs for their students.
2. Stakeholders (governments, students, taxpayers, etc.) have a legitimate need for assurances about the quality and cost-effectiveness of institutional programs and services that they use and for which they help pay.

To balance these two perspectives, the Commission's quality assurance policy brings together two major tools:

1. Program assessment prior to implementation.
2. Ongoing quality assurance monitoring.

Quality Assurance

Why?



To provide assurances to governments, students, parents, and tax-payers that programs offered in publicly-funded universities in the region meet established standards of quality.

Program assessment prior to implementation

Quality Assurance

How?



The program assessment process includes two stages:

1. A **Stage I** (expedited) Assessment is a staff-led analysis based on established assessment standards.
2. A **Stage II** Assessment is an iterative process with institutions and the Commission's AAU-MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee. The Committee works collaboratively with institutions to address proposals that do not readily meet the established criteria.

The Commission publicly reports on program proposals undergoing review at regular intervals during the year on its website.

Quality Assurance



Program Assessment: Key Stats

- ✓ 40-50 proposals/year
 - ✓ ~70% approved through SI Assessment
 - ✓ SI decision: 8-10 weeks
 - ✓ SII decision: 8-12 months
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In 2016-17,

- ✓ 40 proposals (11 of 15 institutions)
- ✓ 36 concluded by year-end:
 - ✓ 67% (24/36) resulted in a SI approval (2 with conditions)
 - ✓ 33% (12/36) resulted in a SII decision (8 approved, 3 approved with conditions, 1 withdrawn)
- ✓ 92% SI within 10 weeks
- ✓ 100% SII within 12 months

Quality Assurance

How?



Ongoing quality assurance monitoring

The Commission's ongoing quality assurance monitoring process includes:

- 1. Conditional approvals** – The Commission follows-up to ensure institutions meet conditions to approval.
- 2. Validation of QA Frameworks** – The Commission ensures institutional QA practices are aligned with established guidelines and develops best practices.
- 3. Spot-checks** – The Commission confirms through survey that universities are conducting regular reviews of approved programs.
- 4. Reconciling codes** – Each year staff validates that all programs with enrolments have been approved.