

Halifax Community College (HCC) implements the “open door” policy established by the North Carolina Board State Board of Community Colleges. This policy provides admission to any person who is 18 years of age or older or is a high school graduate from an accredited institution or has received a high school equivalency certificate. A “Certificate of Attendance” does not constitute high school graduation nor is the certificate deemed equivalent to high school completion. This policy does not necessarily imply immediate admission to any curriculum. Placement in certain programs is limited, and admission to a specific program of study is based on guidelines developed to ensure the student’s chances of success in the program. The college serves all individuals who can profit from instruction regardless of race, creed, gender, age, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, or other factors.

In most programs, a placement test and a counseling interview are arranged. This process aids the students in evaluating their potential for success in the curriculum of their choice. When scores on the placement test indicate that a person is not academically ready for a particular program of study, the individual will be assisted in developing the skills necessary for program placement.

HCC recognizes valid high schools registered with their state department of education. However, if HCC has determined that a high school is not a valid diploma-granting institution; students will be ineligible for Federal and State financial aid. Students not completing such a program must complete the high school equivalency certificate or attain an Adult High School diploma through a valid diploma-granting institution.

High schools are defined as valid diploma-granting institutions if they have met any of the following requirements:

- Is Regionally Accredited
- Is registered with the NC Division of Non-Public Education as a home school
- Is an entity registered with the NC Division of Non-Public Education as a private school and it is providing secondary school education in the form of instruction

Secondary institutions outside of North Carolina will be determined as valid based on the above information, given the institution's state department of education.

Halifax Community College will recognize secondary and post-secondary institutions accredited from the list below.

HCC will not accept transfer credit from post-secondary (college) institutions not accredited by one of the following agencies.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

The (NEASC) accredits schools in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA)

The (NCA) accredits schools in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Navajo Nation, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges (MSA)

The (MSA) accredits schools in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Central America, Europe, and the Middle East.

Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS)

The (SACS) accredits schools in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Latin America.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

The (WASC) accredits schools in California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, and other Australasian locations.

Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NWCCU)

The (NWCCU) accredits schools in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Alternatively, some on-line schools are accredited by the Distance Education Training Council (DETC). The DETC is also recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. DETC accreditation is considered valid by many employers. However, many regionally accredited colleges and universities will not accept course credits from DETC accredited schools and some employers do not accept these diplomas. Learn more: [DETC Accreditation](#).

You can find out instantly if an on-line school is accredited by a regional association, the DETC or an accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education by searching the United States Department of Education database. You may use the CHEA website to search for both CHEA and USDE recognized accrediting agencies ([off-site link](#)) or to view a chart comparing CHEA and USDE recognition ([off-site PDF chart](#)). Note that recognition of an accrediting agency does not guarantee a particular diploma will be accepted by colleges and universities or employers.

Ultimately, regional accreditation remains the most widely accepted form of accreditation for diplomas earned both on-line and at traditional public and private high schools. For Further Information for On-Line High School Accreditation, go to: [Regional Accreditation for Online Schools](#) - If your on-line diploma program is not accredited by the above agencies; you may contact Halifax Community College's Adult Basic Education Center for more information regarding our General Education Development Program (GED).

Last Update 02/09/2015