

## *The Evidence Your Accreditor Will Look For*

### **The Burden of Proof Has Shifted**

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Accreditation is moving toward outcomes-based review. Completion rates, retention rates, time-to-degree, and post-graduation employment are now the primary evidence set reviewers examine. The question is no longer whether your program produces good outcomes — it is whether you can document the operational interventions behind them.

A retention figure alone is increasingly insufficient. Reviewers want to see the evidence trail: where you measured, how you intervened, what the data shows. Narrative is not enough.

#### Where the Major Accreditors Now Stand

WSCUC (California, Hawaii, and select online and faith-based institutions) adopted new Standards in 2022, mandatory for all institutional reviews after September 1, 2024. The 2023 Handbook requires institutions to demonstrate that graduates consistently achieve stated learning outcomes — not merely that outcomes are defined — and to monitor and analyze post-graduation outcomes and document how those results drive improvement. WSCUC also released a Student Outcomes Overview tool to operationalize this standard in reviews, meaning the evidence expectation now has a structured evaluation framework behind it.

SACSCOC (Southern region) adopted a 2024 edition of its Principles of Accreditation with an explicit emphasis on outcomes and results rather than processes, and its Principles Review Committee is currently revising the full standards framework with board action expected December 2026. The stated goals of the revision include aligning standards with student success and workforce outcomes and reducing standards that focus on process attestation in favor of demonstrated results.

HLC (North Central, Midwest) and MSCHE (Mid-Atlantic) are moving incrementally in the same direction under Criterion 4 and institutional effectiveness standards respectively. The directional pressure across all regional accreditors is uniform; the timeline differs by institution's own review cycle. The accreditation argument cannot be deferred the way a federal rule can — the next comprehensive review is on a fixed calendar regardless of what happens to any specific regulatory implementation date.

**18–20%**

of all identified online dropout factors trace to technology access issues (Rahmani et al., International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education, 2024 — systematic review of 110 peer-reviewed studies)

### **The Gap Most IE Offices Can't Fill**

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Most institutions can report attrition rates. Far fewer can show a dated, student-level record of pre-engagement technical readiness intervention — the documentation that answers the accreditor's question: what did you do before the student struggled?

The student who quietly stops logging in doesn't file a ticket, doesn't contact an advisor, and doesn't appear in your retention dashboard until it is too late to intervene. Technology barriers are among the most common causes of early disengagement — and the least documented.

## What TechReady Produces

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TechReady is a browser-based readiness scan that runs at student sign-on and tests devices against your institution's own documented technical requirements. No software installed. No PII collected. The output is a dated, student-level record of technical readiness at the moment of enrollment.

Across 19 partner institutions and 131,418 scans over 8.5 years, 47,445 students — 36% of the lifetime dataset — presented with two or more fixable technical issues at sign-on. That is the population TechReady surfaces. The institution-level record it creates is what the accreditor can look at and verify.

*"For the first time, your program — not just your school — has a federal number attached to it."*

## The Federal Context

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The STATS Earnings Accountability framework (effective July 1, 2026) creates program-level earnings metrics with Title IV consequences. The accreditation overhaul running in parallel moves explicitly toward outcomes-based review. Both channels demand the same institutional response: operational evidence of deliberate, data-driven intervention.

The student who quietly withdraws is invisible to the Earnings Premium — completers only — and visible to the accountability measures around it.

### **30-Day Readiness Audit — No Cost**

We can run a 500-scan operational-readiness audit on one incoming cohort at no cost. The output is your institutional data — what your students are arriving with, where the intervention points are, and what the closed-loop record looks like for accreditation purposes.

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