



AFT Accreditation Toolkit (updated July 20, 2026)

This year, the Trump administration has been making major changes to federal standards for higher ed accreditation. These changes threaten to undermine students' freedom to learn by injecting political litmus tests into university hiring, constraining academic freedom, and undermining institutional autonomy. The resources below provide more information, as well as tools for pushing back and ensuring a strong voice for faculty and staff in the accreditation process on your campus.

Resources: What You Can Do

- Talking points on accreditation [\[link\]](#)
- Suggested language on accreditation for university policies and Procedures [\[link\]](#)
- Model legislation protecting accreditation standards [\[link\]](#)
- Model contract language for accreditation [\[link\]](#)

Explainers

- AAUP FAQ on accreditation and CPHE [\[link\]](#)
- Zakiya Ellis: What Georgia taught us about independent accreditation—and why we may need to learn it again [May 2026; [link](#)]
- Jeremy Bauer-Wolf (New America): A cheat sheet on the Trump accreditation overhaul [June 2026; [link](#)]

Statements and Background Information

- Randi Weingarten's comments to U.S. Department of Education on changes to accreditation [\[link\]](#)
- Statement from AAUP President and AFT Vice-President Todd Wolfson on the Commission for Public Higher Education, a proposed new accreditor [\[link\]](#)
- U.S. Department of Education negotiated rulemaking for 2026: Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM) Committee [\[link\]](#)
- Trump Executive Order: 'Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education' [\[link\]](#)