

ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY MANILA

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Prerequisite B centers on the institution's internal quality assurance mechanisms. The Commission underscored the importance of a dedicated QA Office with a clear organizational structure, a comprehensive IQMS Manual, a feasible and functional strategic plan, and the annual conduct of institutional quality reviews.

Moreover, impeccable institutional integrity and reputation are the focus of the third prerequisite. In this requirement, the institution must certify that their policies are aligned with existing laws. PHEIs are expected to submit a sworn certification affirming that their institution adheres to these policies.

The final prerequisite shifts the limelight to faculty credentials. For undergraduate programs, they are expected to have at least a master's degree relevant to their fields. Meanwhile, those assigned to teach in doctoral programs must possess a doctorate prior to assuming their teaching responsibilities. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory for institutions seeking to advance their application.

The criteria and point requirements

The event moved forward with the discussion of the criteria that will be utilized as the basis for the grant of autonomous status to PHEIs.

Applicant institutions will be assessed based on three (3) criteria namely: (A) Commitment to Program Excellence, (B) Excellence in Instruction, Scholarly Works, and Community Engagements, and (C) Institutional Quality and Excellence.

Criterion A mandates that institutions must have Centers of Excellence and Development, along with several accreditations, to demonstrate the institution's superior scholastic performance.



Furthermore, Criterion B puts strong emphasis on licensure examination results and employability of the institutions' graduates. Scholarly works produced, presented, and published by the faculty members both locally and globally are also validated. CHED evaluates the recognitions as well as the community engagements undertaken by the institutions. Finally, Criterion C assesses the accreditations universities earned as a testament to their superb institutional quality. Key accreditations, such as PAASCU, alongside global university rankings, play a key role under this. To secure or maintain the institution's autonomy, they must achieve a combined score of 80 points. Meanwhile, those who earn at least 65 points will be granted deregulated status.

Recommendations for SPU Manila:

- Enhance faculty research productivity and engagements
- Pursue external accreditations (e.g. ISO, ISA)
- Actively participate in international university rankings (e.g. WURI, THE, QS, and EduRank)
- Expand and institutionalize community engagement initiatives aligned with the university's mission.

Source: CHED Memo No. 15 series of 2025

Other Questions and Issues Raised:

On the exclusion of graduate programs from the benefits and privileges of the autonomous grant: While data from graduate programs are included in the application, CHED explained that the autonomous privilege had been abused by some institutions, hence the decision to exclude the graduate school from such privileges.

On declaring faculty with administrative assignments and reduced teaching load as "Full-time": All faculty-related designations and rankings must be subject to the faculty manual of each institution provided that these manuals are presented as part of the evidence during the institution's application for autonomous status.



SPU Manila representatives with SPU QC Personnel

CHED Orientation on the Updated Guidelines for the Grant of Autonomous Status to PHEIs

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The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), through the Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance (OIQAG), conducted a public orientation regarding the updated policies for the grant of autonomous or deregulated status to Private Higher Educational Institutions (PHEIs) last August 12-14, 2025, at The Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

The prerequisites

CHED formally opened the program with a detailed presentation of the key documents required for institutions seeking autonomous status.

The requirements were categorized into four (4) divisions namely: (A) Government Authorization, (B) Institutional Quality Assurance, (C) Tradition of Integrity and Untarnished Reputation, and (D) Minimum Faculty Qualifications.

Under Government Authorization, CHED emphasized the need for Initial Permits (IP) and Government Recognition (GR) for programs offered prior to achieving the autonomous status. For new programs launched under the institution's autonomy, PHEIs must secure acknowledgement from the Commission.