

DECEMBER 2020

**GEORGIA NONPUBLIC  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION**



---

**Minimum Standards Criteria Revisions**

In accordance with Governor Kemp’s vision that state government should find areas to cut regulatory burdens where possible and in conjunction with GNPEC’s strategic plan, new Minimum Standards (now referred to as *Minimum Standards Criteria* in accordance with terminology in *O.C.G.A. § 20-3-250.6(b)*) were approved on December 15, 2020 by the GNPEC Board of Commissioners. *Minimum Standards Criteria* not only include a reduction in regulation, but they also closely align with *O.C.G.A. § 20-3-250.6*. These new Criteria are applicable to all authorized institutions operating in Georgia as well as those seeking initial authorization.

Overall, regulations have been clarified and simplified. In addition, there has been a 41% reduction in pages, a 55% reduction in word count, a 55% reduction in character count, a 62% reduction in paragraphs, and a 69% reduction in lines of text. This is a major accomplishment for the staff and the agency. In addition, it will positively affect students and institutions by streamlining state compliance activities required of institutions operating or seeking to operate in the state.

The revised standards will be in effect starting January 1, 2021. Institutions are encouraged to submit the new *Minimum Standards Criteria* with their renewal applications, but the agency will be flexible during the first few months of 2021. Institutions with Certificate of Authorization expiration dates in the range of January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021 may use the previous version (dated January 2019) or the new Criteria in the application submissions. However, all institutions seeking initial authorization as of January 1, 2021 or those renewing with expiration dates of April 1, 2021 or later will be required to maintain compliance with the new *Minimum Standards Criteria*. These Criteria will be in the EDvera application portal starting on January 1, 2021 and can also be found here on the GNPEC website: [Minimum Standards Criteria](#).