

Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC) Policy Document

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Table of Contents

Document Control	3
1. Preamble and Background.....	3
2. Purpose and Objectives	3
3. Scope and Applicability.....	4
3.1 Institutions Covered.....	4
3.2 Program-Based Application	4
3.3 Program Eligibility for Affiliated Colleges	4
4. Nomenclature and Branding.....	5
4.1 Comparative Terminology	5
5. The Compliance Certification Process	6
5.1 Two-Stage Process	6
5.2 Compliance Evaluation Team (CET)	6
5.3 Process Flow	6
6. Validity, Renewal and Transition to Accreditation	8
7. Governance and Organizational Structure	9
8. Implementation Considerations	9
9. Proposed Fee Structure (Indicative — Subject to Council Approval)	10
10. Phased Implementation Plan	10
11. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Awareness	10
12. Approval	10

Document Control

Item	Detail
Document Title	Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC) Framework – Policy Document
Prepared By	BECC Committee, NBEAC
Committee Convener	Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Dean and Head, FAST School of Management, NUCES, Islamabad
Committee Members	Dr. Farooq-e-Azam Cheema, Secretary, NBEAC
	Dr. Abdul Raziq, Professor, Baluchistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta
	Dr. Zaki Rashidi, Campus Director, Iqra, Karachi
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1. Preamble and Background

The National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC) is mandated to assure the quality of business education across Pakistan through its accreditation process. However, a substantial number of institutions offering business and management programs have been unable to meet the standards required for full NBEAC accreditation. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) requires all institutions to attain either accreditation or an equivalent status before August 2027. Thus, there is a need for an alternative compliance pathway for institutions that are not yet able to achieve full accreditation.

The NBEAC constituted a committee to design a Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC) Framework to bring all business-education-providing institutions into the national quality assurance system. The Committee met on 1 July 2026, 9 July 2026, 29 July 2026 and 18 Aug 2026 and its deliberations and decisions form the basis of this Policy Document. The consolidated document, with the Committee’s key recommendations and decisions was presented as a single policy framework to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of NBEAC on 18 Aug 2026. The revised document is presented to the NBEAC Council for approval.

2. Purpose and Objectives

This Policy Document sets out the framework, structure, process and governance of the Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC), a certification distinct from, but complementary to, NBEAC accreditation. Its objectives are to:

1. Provide an entry-level quality assurance mechanism for institutions not yet eligible for, or not able to meet the requirements of, NBEAC accreditation.
2. Bring all business schools, faculties, institutes, departments and affiliated colleges offering business and management programs within a national quality assurance net.
3. Enable HEC's target of accreditation or compliance certification for all such institutions to be met in a phased and operationally realistic manner.
4. Establish clear terminology, process, governance and fee structures that are distinct from, and do not create confusion with, the NBEAC Accreditation framework.

3. Scope and Applicability

3.1 Institutions Covered

The BECC Framework applies to institutions offering business and management education, including:

- Business Schools
- Faculties of Business
- Institutes offering Business and Management programs
- Departments offering Business and Management programs
- Affiliated Colleges offering Business programs

3.2 Program-Based Application

As with NBEAC accreditation, compliance certification follows a program-based approach. Compliance is mandatory and applies to all business programs offered by an institution; an institution cannot selectively seek evaluation for one program while excluding others, unless it formally announces closure of the excluded program(s). Where an institution has both NBEAC-accredited and non-accredited business programs, it must apply for either accreditation or compliance certification for all remaining non-accredited programs. Within the same institution, some programs may already hold accreditation while others, such as newly introduced programs, may initially receive compliance certification until they become eligible for accreditation. An MBA NoC or BS NoC (for BS programs not listed in NCRC 2025) is a prerequisite for Compliance Certification. Programs must apply for Compliance Certification within three to six months of becoming operational.

3.3 Program Eligibility for Affiliated Colleges

Affiliated colleges commonly offer both two-year and four-year degree programs. The BECC Framework applies only to four-year business degree programs. A university or institute that has affiliated colleges must provide information about the colleges affiliated with them during the compliance certification process; there are approximately 2,550 affiliated colleges nationally, only a subset of which fall within the scope of BECC.

4. Nomenclature and Branding

To avoid confusion with NBEAC accreditation, the certification and its associated processes carry distinct branding and terminology, as approved by the Council:

- The certificate shall be titled the ‘Business Education Compliance Certificate (BECC)’ by NBEAC; the term ‘NBEAC’ shall not appear in the title of the certificate itself.
- A separate Compliance Logo and dedicated certificate design shall be used, distinct from the NBEAC Accreditation certificate.
- The compliance status of each program shall be displayed clearly on the NBEAC website, and institutions shall reflect it accurately on their own websites and social media handles, to avoid misrepresentation.
- The following note shall be added to the compliance certificate:

Note: This Business Education Compliance Certificate (BECC) confirms compliance with NBEAC’s Basic Compliance Criteria. It does not constitute formal accreditation. Institutions are encouraged to pursue full accreditation.

4.1 Comparative Terminology

The following terminology along with the timelines distinguishes the Compliance Certification Process from the Accreditation Process, and is proposed for Council approval:

#	NBEAC Accreditation Process	Proposed Compliance Certification Process
1	Registration Application	Compliance Screening Form
2	Eligibility Screening Committee (ESC) Review	Compliance Screening Review
3	Self-Assessment Report (SAR)	Compliance Assessment Report (CAR)
4	Peer Review Team (PRT) Constitution	Compliance Evaluation Team (CET) Constitution
5	Peer Review Visit	Compliance Review Visit
6	Peer Review Report	Compliance Evaluation Report
7	Accreditation Decision	Compliance Decision
8	Accreditation Notification	Compliance Certificate Issuance
9	Reaccreditation Cycle	Renewal of Compliance Certificate
10	Accreditation Fee	Compliance Certification Fee
11	Accreditation Standards	Basic Compliance Criteria

5. The Compliance Certification Process

5.1 Two-Stage Process

The Compliance Certification process shall follow two stages:

- a. Stage I: Compliance Screening
- b. Stage II: Compliance Verification

At the first stage, the Universities/HEIs shall complete a Compliance Screening Form (CSF). The CSF has the same pattern as the Registration Application form but requires significantly less information. A separate CSF shall be completed by the Affiliated Colleges. At the second stage of Compliance Verification, the Universities/HEIs shall complete the Compliance Assessment Report (CAR).

5.2 Compliance Evaluation Team (CET)

The following structure governs the composition and conducts of the Compliance Evaluation Team (CET).

- The compliance visit shall be carried out by a two to three member CET, all of whom shall be academics; no industry representative shall be part of the CET.
- The duration of the visit shall be one day (e.g. arrival the evening before for a preliminary meeting, site visit 9:00 am – 2:00 pm and return the same day).
- The Chairperson of the CET may be an Associate Professor or above.
- Assistant Professors with five years of relevant academic and administrative experience may serve as team members.
- Members from affiliated colleges shall not serve as CET members.
- For university/principal-seat evaluations, CET members from the same city as the institution shall not be included.
- For affiliated colleges, same-city evaluators may be engaged where operationally appropriate, to reduce the time commitment required of evaluators.
- As Affiliated colleges require separate evaluation criteria, they shall be evaluated on a distinct compliance checklist and standards i.e. their evaluation process shall be simplified while maintaining minimum quality standards; a one-day site visit shall remain mandatory.

5.3 Process Flow

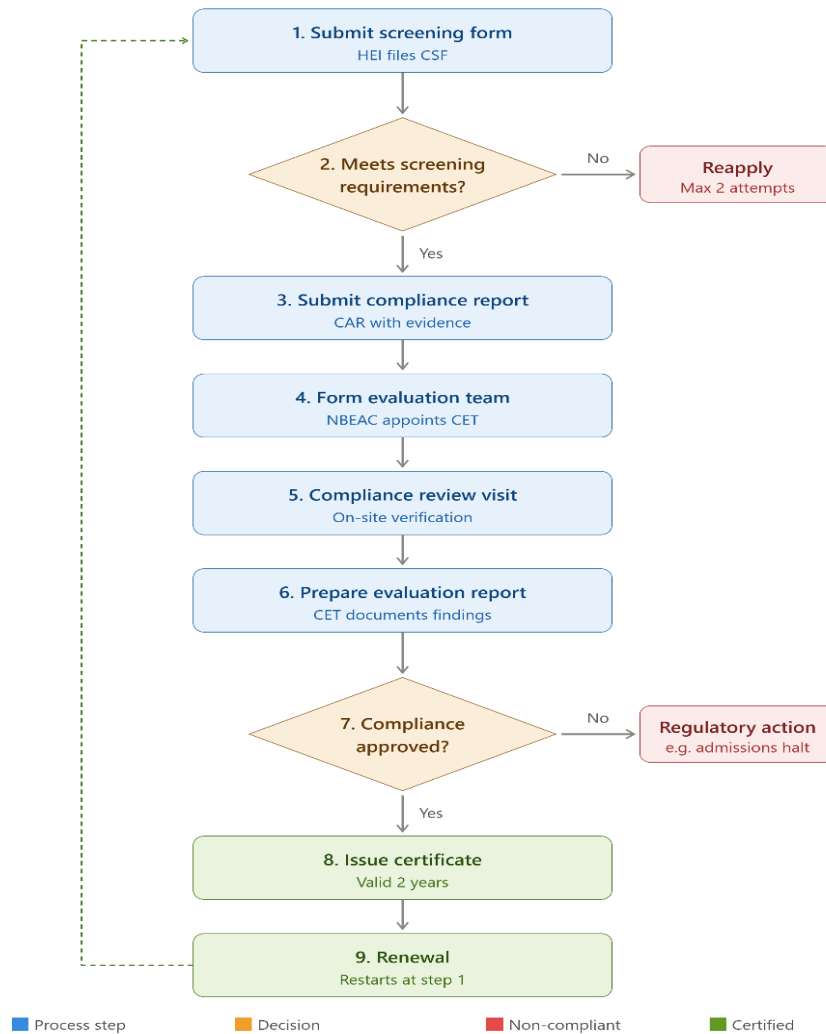
1. Submission of Compliance Screening Form

- The university/HEI submits the CSF.
- Where there are affiliated colleges, each affiliated college shall submit a separate CSF.

2. Compliance Screening Review (1 week)

- NBEAC shall review the CSF to determine whether the institution meets the minimum screening requirements.

- If the institution does not qualify, it may reapply after addressing the deficiencies. An institution may apply a maximum of two times under the same application fee.
 - Where the institution satisfies the minimum screening requirements, it shall proceed to the next stage.
3. **Submission of Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) (3 weeks)**
 - The university/HEI shall prepare and submit the CAR, providing detailed evidence of compliance with the prescribed standards.
 4. **Constitution of Compliance Evaluation Team (CET) (1 week)**
 - NBEAC shall appoint a 2-3 member CET to evaluate the submitted report and conduct the compliance review.
 5. **Compliance Review Visit (1 day)**
 - The CET shall conduct an on-site Compliance Review Visit to verify the evidence presented in the CAR and assess institutional compliance.
 6. **Preparation of Compliance Evaluation Report (1 week)**
 - Following the visit, the CET shall prepare and submit a Compliance Evaluation Report documenting its findings and recommendations.
 7. **Compliance Decision**
 - Based on the evaluation report, the NBEAC Council shall make the final Compliance Decision.
 8. **Issuance of Business Education Compliance Certificate**
 - Where the institution does not qualify for the award of the Business Education Compliance Certificate, it shall be liable to regulatory action under the applicable policies and legal framework of HEC, including, inter alia, the suspension or discontinuation of admissions to the concerned program.
 - Where the institution qualifies, the Business Education Compliance Certificate shall be issued.
 9. **Renewal of Compliance Certificate**
 - The Business Education Compliance Certificate shall be valid for two (2) years.
 - Institutions shall apply for renewal of the Compliance Certificate six months before its expiry to maintain their compliance status.



6. Validity, Renewal and Transition to Accreditation

- The Compliance Certificate shall remain valid for a period of two (2) years.
- Institutions shall apply for re-evaluation after 18 months, to ensure renewal is completed within the two-year validity period.
- Universities/Campuses/Principal Seats with affiliated colleges that have completed Compliance Certification shall apply for full NBEAC accreditation within two years of receiving the Compliance Certificate.
- Where the principal campus obtains Compliance Certification, all its affiliated colleges offering business programs shall obtain Compliance Certification within one year; institutions unable to achieve compliance before the implementation deadline may be granted a one-year grace period, following an evaluation of the circumstances.
- Universities located in remote or underserved areas may be permitted a longer transition period under the Compliance Certification Framework. The NBEAC Secretariat shall develop transparent criteria and maintain a formal, documented classification of remote and underserved institutions for this purpose.

7. Governance and Organizational Structure

NBEAC currently operates through two wings: the Accreditation Wing and the Training and Development Wing. To administer the Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC) Framework, a dedicated Compliance Wing shall be established within six (6) months of the Council approval.

To facilitate the effective implementation of the BECC framework, NBEAC shall conduct regional awareness and orientation sessions for universities and affiliated colleges to familiarize institutions with the BECC process, documentation requirements, and applicable timelines.

NBEAC shall also recruit additional reviewers/evaluators to conduct compliance review visits under the Framework. These reviewers may be drawn from the existing pool of accreditation peer reviewers, recruited separately, or both, depending on the operational requirements. At the time of the Committee's review, NBEAC's registered peer reviewer pool stood at 170, of whom 140 were active. The Committee concluded that this capacity alone would be insufficient to meet the projected volume of compliance review visits under this Framework (see Section 8).

8. Implentation Considerations

The successful implementation of the Business Education Compliance Certification (BECC) Framework will require significant institutional capacity and resources. In developing this Framework, the Committee assessed the anticipated implementation workload and its implications for NBEAC's operational arrangements.

An assessment of scale presented to the Committee established the following baseline:

- 210 university campuses were offering business and management education across Pakistan.
- Of these, 56 hold NBEAC accreditation, and 105 were registered with NBEAC and undergoing accreditation at various stages.
- More than 2,550 affiliated colleges were registered nationally.

Based on these figures, the Committee estimated that NBEAC would be required to conduct more than 2,700 compliance review visits to enable institutions to attain accreditation or compliance status within the timeline prescribed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The Committee concluded that this volume of visits would require substantial expansion of NBEAC's operational capacity.

The Committee further noted that the two-year validity period of the Business Education Compliance Certificate would result in a continuing requirement for approximately 1,000 or more compliance review visits annually following the completion of the initial implementation phase. Accordingly, the Committee recommends the establishment of a dedicated Compliance Wing, the expansion of the reviewer/evaluator pool, and the implementation of regional awareness and orientation programs to ensure the effective and sustainable implementation of the BECC Framework.

9. Proposed Fee Structure (Indicative — Subject to Council Approval)

Fee Component	Proposed Amount
Screening Form Fee	PKR 25,000 per program
Compliance Certificate Fee – University/Principal Seat	PKR 200,000 for Program 1 PKR 100,000 per additional program
Compliance Certificate Fee – Affiliated College	PKR 100,000 for Program 1 PKR 50,000 per additional program

10. Phased Implementation Plan

Following the presentation of the Framework to the NBEAC Chairman on 18 Aug 2026, the Committee reaffirmed that implementation of the BECC Framework shall be undertaken in phases:

Phase I

The initial phase shall primarily focus on Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs).

Phase II

The second phase shall extend the BECC Framework to all satellite campuses and affiliated colleges. Satellite campuses and affiliated colleges remain within the overall scope of accreditation and compliance monitoring throughout. Although most compliance evaluations for affiliated colleges shall be undertaken during Phase II, CSFs from affiliated colleges shall be invited during Phase I to establish a baseline database and facilitate future compliance planning.

11. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Awareness

- NBEAC shall conduct multiple online orientation and awareness sessions for universities, affiliated colleges and other stakeholders, to facilitate effective implementation of the BECC Framework.
- The Compliance Committee shall organize the awareness sessions following the formal launch of the Framework.

12. Approval

This Policy Document reflects the decisions of the BECC Committee as recorded in the minutes of its meetings held on 1 July 2026, 9 July 2026, 29 July 2026 and 18 Aug 2026, and is submitted for review, amendment as necessary, and formal approval by the NBEAC Council.

Submitted by: BECC Committee, NBEAC

Convener: Dr. Sadia Nadeem, Dean and Head, FAST School of Management, NUCES, Islamabad