Sharing Information with Other Agencies and Regard for their Decisions Policy

The Commission routinely shares information with other accrediting agencies, state agencies, the United States Department of Education (USDE), and other international agencies relevant to the institution, about the accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy status of an institution or program and any adverse actions it has taken against an accredited or pre-accredited institution or program.

Following each Commission meeting, the Commission will distribute to other germane recognized accrediting agencies and appropriate governmental agencies a list of actions taken on the accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy status of institutions, noting all non-compliance actions and those monitoring actions that are public.

In considering whether to grant initial accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy status to an institution, the Commission will not grant initial or renewed accreditation if it knows, or has reasonable cause to know, that the institution is the subject of:

1. A pending or final action brought by a state or other government agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution’s legal authority to provide postsecondary education.
2. A decision by a recognized agency to deny accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy.
3. A pending or final action brought by a recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution’s accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy.
4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency.

If upon review, the Commission acts to make an exception to any of the above and acts to grant accreditation or eligibility status, it will provide to the Secretary, within 30 days of its action, a thorough and reasonable explanation, consistent with its Standards, why the action of the other body does not preclude the granting of accreditation.

CONSIDERATION OF ACCREDITING DECISIONS OF OTHER AGENCIES

1. If the Commission is notified by another recognized accrediting agency or its international equivalent that an applicant or candidate institution has had a status of recognition with that agency denied, revoked, or terminated, the Commission will take such action into account in its own review if it is determined that the other agency’s action resulted from a deficiency that reflects a lack of compliance with the Handbook of Accreditation.
2. If the Commission is notified by another recognized accrediting agency or its international equivalent that an accredited institution has had a status of recognition with that agency revoked, suspended or terminated, or has been placed on a publicly announced probationary status by such an accrediting agency, the Commission will review its own status of recognition of that institution to determine if the other agency’s action resulted from a deficiency that reflects a lack of compliance with the Handbook of Accreditation. If so, the Commission will determine if the institution’s status with the Commission needs to be reviewed or if any follow-up action is needed.
3. If the Commission is notified by a state agency or its international equivalent that an applicant, candidate or accredited institution has been informed of suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution’s legal authority to provide postsecondary education, the Commission will review its own status of recognition for that institution to determine compliance with the Handbook of Accreditation. If the Commission finds the institution is no longer in compliance with the Handbook, the Commission will determine the appropriate action to be taken.

It is the obligation of the institution to inform WSCUC of adverse actions, in alignment with CFR 1.8. In implementing this policy; the Commission relies on other accrediting bodies, state agencies, and their international equivalents to also inform the Commission of adverse action so the Commission can undertake the review specified in this policy. Applicants for eligibility with the Commission shall provide information on any actions by a recognized accrediting association within the past five years. In addition, the Commission requires candidate and accredited institutions holding accredited or candidate status from more than one USDE recognized institutional accrediting body to keep each institutional accrediting body apprised of any change in its status with any another accrediting body.

Revised by the Commission, February 2019