

# **ACCSC COMPLAINT REVIEW PROCESS FORM**

The following notice must be published in the school's catalog:

### **STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Schools accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges must have a procedure and operational plan for handling student complaints. If a student does not feel that the school has adequately addressed a complaint or concern, the student may consider contacting the Accrediting Commission. All complaints reviewed by the Commission must be in written form and should grant permission for the Commission to forward a copy of the complaint to the school for a response. This can be accomplished by filing the ACCSC Complaint Form. The complainant(s) will be kept informed as to the status of the complaint as well as the final resolution by the Commission. Please direct all inquiries to:

**Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges**  
**2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302**  
**Arlington, VA 22201**  
**(703) 247-4212**  
**www.accsc.org**

A copy of the ACCSC Complaint Form is available at the school and may be obtained by contacting (name/position) or online at [www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org).

The following is an outline of the Commission's procedure for reviewing complaints: (For further information on the Commission's procedures please refer to *Section VI Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation.*)

1. All complaints that are reviewed by the Commission must be in written form and should include permission from the complainant for ACCSC to forward a copy of the complaint to the school. If permission is not included in the complaint letter, Commission staff will send a letter and a copy of the ACCSC Complaint Form requesting the complainant's permission. Permission is not necessary for advertising complaints since advertising is considered public information.
2. Commission staff will conduct an initial review of the complaint to determine whether the complaint sets forth information or allegations that reasonably suggest that a school may not be in compliance with ACCSC standards or requirements.
  - i. If additional information or clarification is required, the Commission will send a request to the complainant. If the requested information is

not received within 30 days, the complaint may be considered abandoned and not investigated by ACCSC.

- ii. If the Commission determines after the initial review of the complaint that the information or allegations do not reasonably suggest that a school may not be in compliance with ACCSC standards or requirements, the complaint may be considered closed and not investigated by ACCSC.
  - iii. If the Commission determines after the initial review of the complaint that the information or allegations reasonably suggest that a school may not be in compliance with ACCSC standards or requirements, the Commission will notify the school named in the complaint that a complaint has been filed. The notice will summarize the allegations, identify the ACCSC standards or requirements that were allegedly violated, and provide a copy of the original complaint to the school. The notice will advise the school of the deadline for a response.
3. In cases of advertising violations, Commission staff will forward a copy of the advertisement to the school, citing the standard that may have been violated and requesting a response before a specific date.
4. If a news article or media broadcast carries a negative report on an ACCSC accredited school, the school is requested to respond to the statement(s) on or before a specific date.
5. The school will have an opportunity to submit a response to the complaint. The Commission will review the complaint and the response for compliance with accrediting standards and requirements.
6. If the Commission concludes that the allegations may establish a violation of ACCSC standards or requirements, the Commission will take appropriate action to require the school to achieve compliance as required and will send a letter to the complainant (and a copy to the school). A record of this file is maintained at the Commission's office.
7. If the Commission concludes that the allegations do not establish a violation of standards or requirements, The Commission will consider the complaint closed.
8. In all instances, the Commission will send a letter to the complainant and the school regarding the final disposition of the complaint, and a record of the complaint will be kept on file at the Commission's office.