

March 18, 2019

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

[REDACTED]
The International Culinary Center
462 Broadway
New York, New York 10013

School #M001493
School # B072345
Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear [REDACTED]

At the February 2019 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered its previous decision to continue the ACCSC-accredited schools¹ owned by International Culinary Center, LLC and Affiliates (“ICC”) on Probation. Upon review of the Commission’s December 18, 2018 Continued Probation Order and ICC’s response, the Commission found that ICC failed to finalize a change of control which ICC had stated would result in the financial resources necessary to satisfy the Commission’s requirements. As a result, ICC has failed to demonstrate that the financial structure of the schools is sound with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the schools and discharge of obligations to students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and failed to demonstrate continuous compliance with accrediting standards and ongoing eligibility for accreditation (*Section I (G)(1-2); VII (P)(1)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). Therefore, the Commission voted to withdraw ICC’s accreditation and remove the schools from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. The history of the Commission’s review and bases for the Commission’s decision to withdraw ICC’s accreditation are set forth below.

History of the Commission’s Review

November 2015 Review

At the November 2015 meeting, the Commission considered the audited consolidated financial statements for fiscal years-ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 submitted by ICC. Upon review of the financial statements, the Commission voted to place ICC on System-wide Financial Reporting. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

May 2016 Review

At the May 2016 meeting, the Commission considered its previous decision to place ICC on System-wide Financial Reporting. Upon review of the Commission’s January 12, 2016 Financial Reporting letter and the school’s response, the Commission voted to continue ICC on System-wide Financial Reporting. [REDACTED]

¹ International Culinary Center – New York, New York (M#001493); International Culinary Center – Campbell, California (B#072345)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

August 2016 Review

At the August 2016 meeting, the Commission considered its previous decision to continue ICC on System-wide Financial Reporting. Upon review of the Commission’s June 17, 2016 Continued System-wide Financial Reporting letter and the schools’ response, the Commission voted to place ICC on Warning. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

May 2017 Review

At the May 2017 meeting, the Commission considered its previous decision to place ICC on System-wide Warning. Upon review of the Commission’s September 7, 2016 System-wide Warning letter and the schools’ response, the Commission voted to place ICC on Probation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. Continue ICC-NY and ICC-Campbell on Probation due to the Commission’s concerns with the financial soundness of the institution.
2. Revoke the approval for the Italian Culinary Experience (Diploma) program for ICC-NY and direct the school to submit a [Programmatic Teach-Out Approval Form](#) for this program (*Section VII (R)(7), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

[REDACTED]

September 2018 Review

The Commission determined that ICC failed to demonstrate that the schools’ financial structure is sound with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the schools and discharge of obligations to its students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

December 2018 Review and Action

The Commission determined that ICC failed to demonstrate that it's financial structure is sound with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the schools and discharge of obligations to its students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While the Commission recognized ICC's continued efforts to improve its financial position, mainly through cost reductions and a potential change of ownership, the Commission remained gravely concerned regarding ICC's ability to operate the schools in compliance with accreditation requirements due to the consistent weakness and continued deterioration of the school's financial position.

February 2019 Review and Action

At the February 2019 meeting, the Commission considered its previous decision to continue ICC on Probation and by so doing, to extend the maximum timeframe allowed for ICC to demonstrate compliance with accrediting standards. Upon review of the December 15, 2018 Continued Probation Order and ICC's

response, the Commission found that ICC failed to demonstrate that its financial structure is sound with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the schools and discharge of obligations to its students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

As stated in the June 8, 2018 Continued Probation Order, the Commission informed ICC that the maximum timeline for ICC to demonstrate compliance with ACCSC’s standards extended through January 10, 2019. At ACCSC’s December 2018 meeting, the Commission found that good cause existed to extend the maximum timeframe for ICC to come into compliance with accrediting standards until the February 2019 meeting and voted to do so. As stated in the December 18, 2018 letter, the purpose of the extension was to afford ICC an additional opportunity to demonstrate financial soundness by finalizing a change of control which ICC had stated would result in the financial resources necessary to satisfy the Commission’s requirements regarding financial viability.

As stated in the December 18, 2018 letter:

While the Commission found that good cause currently exists to extend the maximum timeframe for ICC to demonstrate compliance from January 10, 2019 until the Commission’s February 2019 meeting, ICC should take this Continued System-wide Probation Order to underscore the seriousness of ACCSC’s concerns regarding the school’s financial viability. Additionally, in reaching the decision to extend the maximum timeframe to demonstrate compliance, the Commission has the explicit expectation that ICC will provide a realistic and workable teach-out plan for both the main school and branch campus in response to this Probation order. If ICC does not submit an Institutional Teach Out Plan Approval Form and cannot submit an Application for a Change of Control-Part I showing an agreement with a qualified buyer for the New York main school, then in accordance with the deadlines established in this letter, the Commission will likely withdraw the school’s accreditation at the February 2019 meeting.

The Commission found that the Commission’s December 18, 2018 letter provided clear notice and an opportunity for ICC to come into compliance with ACCSC’s financial viability standards. Yet, despite the notice and additional opportunity afforded to ICC to come into compliance with ACCSC’s standards, ICC failed to submit an Application for a Change of Control-Part I showing an agreement with a qualified buyer for the New York main school as directed by the Commission in its December 18, 2019 letter. Rather, ICC’s response states the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For additional information regarding the Commission's decision, please contact me directly at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Encls: Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision
ACCSC Standing Appeals Commission Members
Public Comment Disclosure Form