



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302
Arlington, Virginia 22201
703.247.4212
703.247.4533 fax
www.accsc.org

November 29, 2016

Corrected Copy sent November 30, 2016¹

Jeffery Morrow²

Director

Ohio College of Massotherapy

225 Heritage Woods Drive

Akron, Ohio 44321

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

School #M069256

Dear Mr. Morrow:

On October 19, 2016, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) issued a letter to Ohio College of Massotherapy located in Akron, Ohio withdrawing the school’s accreditation and informed the school of its right to appeal that decision. As of the date of this letter, the school has not filed the Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision as provided in the October 19, 2016 letter from ACCSC. Accordingly, the Commission’s decision to withdraw Ohio College of Massotherapy’s accreditation as of September 22, 2016 is final (*Section VII (B)(3), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

Although Ohio College of Massotherapy has closed, should the school begin operations again the school must ensure that there are no references to or claims of ACCSC accreditation in its catalogs, advertising, statements, or promotional materials (*Section VII (P)(4)(a-b), Rules of Process and Procedure; Section IV (B), Substantive Standards; Standards of Accreditation*).

For further information or assistance regarding this matter, please contact me directly at 703.247.4520 or mccomis@accsc.org

Sincerely,

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.

Executive Director

¹ Corrected copy issued November 30, 2016 to reflect a correction made to the location of the school.



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October 19, 2016

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY &
FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Jeffery Morrow
Director
Ohio College of Massotherapy
225 Heritage Woods Drive
Akron, Ohio 44321

School #M069256

Dear Mr. Morrow:

At the September 2016 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered the operational status for Ohio College of Massotherapy located in Akron, Ohio. The Commission’s concerns regarding Ohio College of Massotherapy’s compliance with accrediting standards arose in conjunction with the school’s failure to respond to the Commission’s August 3, 2016 Continued Warning Order and lack of notification of its decision to cease operations. Upon review of the August 3, 2016 Continued Warning and the ACCSC letter dated September 7, 2016 which provided the school an opportunity to respond, and the school’s September 7, 2016 reply e-mails, the Commission determined that Ohio College of Massotherapy failed to demonstrate compliance with ACCSC’s accrediting standards. Accordingly, the Commission voted to withdraw the accreditation of Ohio College of Massotherapy and to remove the school from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions effective September 22, 2016 (*Section VII (P) (1), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). The reasons for the Commission’s decision to withdraw Ohio College of Massotherapy’s accreditation are set forth below.

As stated in the Commission’s letter dated September 7, 2016, ACCSC accrediting standards state the following:

- A school will be considered to have had its accreditation withdrawn if the school closes without notification or closes without an ACCSC approved teach-out plan (to include as necessary an ACCSC approved teach-out agreement) that the school faithfully executes (*Section VII (P)(5) and Section VII (Q)(5) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).
- *Section IV (F)(1), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation* states that the Commission will require a school to submit a complete ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form when a school intends to close.
- *Section V (E)(1)&(2)(d), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation* states that each accredited school and each applicant for initial accreditation must notify ACCSC of any material event or circumstance that will or could affect the school’s operations, policies, staff, curricula, reputation, approval status or authority to operate as a legal entity, or financial status. Such notification must be in writing, made within 10 calendar days of the event’s occurrence, and is in addition to disclosures that are required in the applications for initial or renewal of accreditation or any substantive change report. Material events or circumstances necessitating such notification include but are not limited to a decision to cease operations, close, or propose a teach-out of students (must include an ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan).
- *Section I (E)(2)(a-c), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation* states that in order for a school to maintain its eligibility for accreditation, it must comply on a continuous basis with accreditation standards and requirements; operate providing education and training to students in accordance with its primary objectives, (with the exception of any regularly scheduled breaks,

vacation periods, or approved changes of location) and maintain its ability to meet its obligations to students on a continuous basis; and fulfill all process, reporting, and substantive change requirements.

- *Section VII (P)(1), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation* states that the Commission may withdraw the accreditation of a school any time a school fails to demonstrate compliance with one or more accreditation standards or other requirements and for any of the reasons, or combination thereof, listed in *Section of VII (P)(1), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation* including: failure to continue to meet the eligibility requirements for accreditation set forth in *Section I, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*; failure to demonstrate compliance with an accrediting standard or other accreditation requirement set forth in the *Standards of Accreditation*; failure to notify the Commission in a timely manner of any material change in the school's ownership, the way in which the school conducts its business or the circumstances in which it operates, pursuant to *Sections IV and V, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*; and failure to comply with a Commission order or directive.

Ohio College of Massotherapy failed to respond to the August 3, 2016 Commission Continued Warning Order and to date has not submitted the Fiscal Year 2015 Audit and the ACCSC Sustaining Fees as required. In response to the September 7, 2016 letter regarding the question of closure, the school only replied in e-mails which state:

Yes, the school is in operation...The current status of the school is that it is open. Classes were halted last week. Our teachers did not want to teach any longer until they were paid. They have been teaching unpaid since approximately July. The reason is the Heightened Cash Monitoring the Dept. of Education placed on us. Essentially due to the way we take attendance for our online program. Your department thought our attendance policy was fine, so we went with the premise that all was well. Apparently not. I don't know of what you ask regarding "evidence" of not being closed. We are not closed, or do not intend to do so.

Although Ohio College of Massotherapy stated that school "is in operation," the school failed to provide evidence that the teachers returned to the classroom and that students are attending classes in the school's approved programs.

Given that Ohio College of Massotherapy failed to: 1) respond to the August 3, 2016 Commission Continued Warning Order; 2) submit the Fiscal Year 2015 Audit; 3) notify ACCSC of the school's decision to "halt classes;" 4) submit evidence that the school is operating providing education and training to students in accordance with its primary objectives; and 5) receive approval of an institutional teach-out plan that provides for the equitable treatment of students, the Commission determined that the school has not met its reporting obligations to the Commission, has failed to maintain the school's ability to meet its obligations to students and as such has not met the obligations to maintain its eligibility for accreditation (*Section I (E), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*). Accordingly, the Commission voted to withdraw the accreditation of Ohio College of Massotherapy and to remove the school from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions effective September 22, 2016 (*Section VII (P) (1) & (5), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

In accordance with *Section X, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the reasons for the Withdrawal Order are made public and provided to the U.S. Department of Education, appropriate state agencies, and appropriate accrediting agencies.

TEACH-OUT PLAN

Pursuant to federal law, an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education must require a teach-out plan from an institution subject to an adverse accreditation decision to withdraw

accreditation. Therefore, in accordance with *Section IV (F)(1)(c) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* the Commission requires that Ohio College of Massotherapy submit a completed ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form,¹ to demonstrate how Ohio College of Massotherapy will ensure the opportunity for students to complete their program of study. The school's Teach-Out Plan must be submitted **on or before October 31, 2016.**

APPEAL AND REAPPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

Ohio College of Massotherapy may opt to appeal the Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation or to reapply for accreditation. Details regarding the reapplication and appeal procedures are outlined in the *ACCSC Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*.

- If Ohio College of Massotherapy elects to appeal this decision, the school must sign and return the enclosed Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision, along with the Appeal Expense Fee of \$6,000.00, **on or before October 31, 2016.**
- If Ohio College of Massotherapy elects to appeal this decision, the school's Application for Appeal of a Commission Decision and Grounds for Appeal must be submitted **on or before November 18, 2016.**
- If Ohio College of Massotherapy elects not to appeal this decision, the Commission's decision to withdraw the school's accreditation as of **September 22, 2016** will become final. The school may submit comments **on or before November 18, 2016** in accordance with the enclosed Public Comment Disclosure Form. Comments submitted by the school will accompany any public disclosure of a final Commission action pursuant to *Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

For additional information regarding the Commission's decision, please contact me directly at 703.247.4520 or mccomis@accsc.org.

Sincerely,



Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

c: John Ware
Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools
[REDACTED]

Douglas Parrott
U.S. Department of Education
[REDACTED]

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

¹ Available online at: <http://www.accsc.org/Content/FormsAndReports/FormsAndReports.asp>



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LETTER OF INTENT TO APPEAL A COMMISSION DECISION

To Be Submitted No Later Than October 31, 2016

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director
ACCSC
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #302
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Dr. McComis:

This letter serves to provide notice that Ohio College of Massotherapy located in Akron, Ohio, intends to appeal the recent decision of the Commission to revoke the school's accreditation and remove the school from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. Attached is a check in the amount of \$6,000 as required by accreditation procedures. I understand that this fee is non-refundable.

I understand that the ACCSC Appeals Panel will meet to consider the appeal of the school and that I will receive final confirmation of the hearing at a later date. I have reviewed *Section VIII, Rules of Process and Procedures of the Standards of Accreditation* pertaining to appeals and noted that I am entitled to a transcript of the proceedings and to have representatives, including legal counsel, present with advance notification to ACCSC.

I understand that it is the right of the a school to appeal an adverse action taken by the Commission on the grounds that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise in substantial disregard of the criteria or procedures of the Commission, or not supported by substantial evidence in the record on which the Commission took the action (*Section VIII (B), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*). I understand that because the appeal must be based on evidence in the record at the time that the Commission took the adverse action, no new evidence may be submitted during the appeal process, other than information related to the financial solvency and condition of the school.

I understand it is the right of a school intending to appeal a Commission decision to indicate whether there is good cause as to why any member of the Commission's Standing Appeal Panel should not hear the appeal. I have reviewed the list of Standing Appeal Panel members and have included with this notice any objections to any member of the Standing Appeal Member with the reasons and cause why I believe a member should not hear the school's appeal. I understand the absence of a submission with this notice indicates my approval to allow any member of the Standing Appeal Panel to sit for the school's appeal.

I understand that the Application for Appeal of Commission Decision with the school's Grounds for Appeal are due to ACCSC **on or before November 18, 2016**, and I agree to submit that material on or before that date. I understand that failure to submit these required documents by the due date could prevent consideration of the school's appeal.

Signature

Date

Name/Title



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ACCSC Standing Appeals Panel Members

Panel Member	Affiliation	Term Ending
Gary Baker	U.S. Department of Education (Retired) Springfield, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Paul Bott, Ed.D.	Pacific College Costa Mesa, California <i>Public Member</i>	2020
Nancy Bradley	Daytona College Ormond Beach, Florida <i>School Member</i>	2016
Mary Cano	Western Technical College El Paso, Texas <i>School Member</i>	2018
Paul Fitzgerald	Erie Institute of Technology Erie, Pennsylvania <i>School Member</i>	2019
Lorne P. Gauthier	Northwest Technological Institute Southfield, Michigan <i>School Member</i>	2017
William James	U.S. Department of Education (Retired) Fairfax, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Timothy McMahon	Triangle Tech Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania <i>School Member</i>	2020
Cedric D. Page, Ph.D.	University of New Mexico – Los Alamos Los Alamos, New Mexico <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Kathleen J. Steinberg	Midwest Technical Institute Lincoln, Illinois <i>School Member</i>	2018
Raymond Tuttle, Ph.D.	University of Mary Washington Fredericksburg, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2020



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PUBLIC COMMENT DISCLOSURE FORM

To Be Submitted No Later Than November 18, 2016

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director
ACCSC
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #302
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Ohio College of Massotherapy– School #M069256
225 Heritage Woods Drive
Akron, Ohio 44321

Dear Dr. McComis:

I understand and agree that the Commission, pursuant to *Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, will make public a summary of the reasons for the decision together with any comments submitted by the school. I further understand that the summary will be accompanied by the attached comments.

I understand and agree that the attached comments constitute Ohio College of Massotherapy’s public comments on the adverse accreditation action that are to be disseminated with the public notice of the Commission’s decision dated October 19, 2016 including, but not limited to, posting to the ACCSC website (*Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

I understand and agree that the school is not obligated to submit public comments and acknowledge that the attached comments are provided voluntarily.

I understand and agree that the public comments must be in summary format and that the comments must be limited to two type written pages (no smaller than 11 pt. font with one inch margins). I acknowledge that any comments which do not meet these requirements will not be disseminated or posted along with the summary of the reasons for the adverse accreditation decision.

I understand and agree that the Commission will release its summary of the adverse accreditation decision to the public pursuant to *Section X (D)(3), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* and that the school’s written comments will not be added to this disclosure if this form and comments are not submitted in the required format **on or before November 18, 2016**

I understand and agree that the Commission has no responsibility for how the school’s comments may be used once they are put in the public domain.

Signature

Date

Name/Title