



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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March 20, 2020

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

IBO Technology Course
PR-3 Km27.5, Barrio Zaral Abajo
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico 00721

School #M070588
Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear [Redacted]

At its February 2020 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered its previous decision to continue IBO Technology Course located in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico on Continued Probation with Show Cause in accordance with *Section VII (L)(1), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*. Upon review of the school’s response to the Commission’s October 18, 2019 Continued Probation Order, the Commission found that IBO Technology Course failed to demonstrate that:

- The financial structure of the school is sound with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the school and the discharge of obligations to its students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
- The school has adequate management and administrative capacity in place that includes a demonstrated ability to lead and manage a postsecondary educational institution (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

Therefore, the Commission voted to withdraw IBO Technology Course’s accreditation and to remove the school¹ from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. The history of the Commission’s review and bases for the Commission’s decision to withdraw IBO Technology Course’s accreditation are set forth below.

History of the Commission’s Review

August 2018

At the August 2018 meeting, the Commission considered the Application for Renewal of Accreditation, Application for a New Non-Degree Program, and Licensure Report submitted by IBO Technology Course. Upon review of the September 12, 2018 Commission letter and the school’s response, the Commission voted to place IBO Technology Course on Warning based on the Commission’s concerns regarding management and administrative capacity; administrative policies and procedures; school safety; refunds; unapproved programs; tuition changes; instructional materials; institutional planning; faculty work experience; complaint process; admissions; advertising; program advisory committee; employment verification; and licensure rates.

February 2019

At the February 2019 meeting, the Commission considered its previous decision to issue a Warning Order to IBO Technology Course and voted to place IBO Technology Course on Probation. The Commission

¹ Pursuant to *Section VIII(B)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*, the accredited status of the branch campus is dependent upon the continued accreditation of the main school. Therefore, the Commission’s action to withdraw the accreditation of the main campus also withdraws the accreditation of the branch campus, IBO Technology Course located in San Sebastian (School #B072425).

found that despite the most recent opportunities to demonstrate compliance, IBO Technology Course did not provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with accrediting standards in the areas of financial resources; management and administrative capacity; administrative policies and procedures; refunds; instructional materials; institutional planning; faculty work experience; admission process; advertising; program advisory committees; and employment verification. Specifically, the school failed to provide responses to the majority of concerns expressed in the September 12, 2018 letter, stating that additional time was needed to respond to concerns regarding administrative policies and procedures, including clarification for signing enrollment agreements; institutional planning and assessment; faculty work experience; employment verification process; and updates on the licensure pass rate of graduates. In addition, a review of the financial statements found the school recorded a net working capital deficit and significant losses in fiscal year end June 30, 2018.

August 2019:

At the August 2019 meeting, the Commission found that despite the opportunities allowed to demonstrate compliance, IBO Technology Course failed to provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with accrediting standards in the areas of financial resources; management and administrative capacity; administrative policies and procedures; refunds; instructional materials; institutional planning; faculty work experience; admissions process; advertising; program advisory committees; and employment verification. The Commission again expressed continued concern regarding the financial soundness of the school and as such in an August 14, 2019 letter directed the school cease enrollment in all programs and to submit a completed and acceptable ACCSC Teach-out Agreement. The Commission directed the school to submit evidence of the cessation of enrollment and the executed Teach-out Agreement for review at its September 2019 meeting.

September 2019

At the September 2019 meeting, the Commission considered its previous action set forth in the August 14, 2019 letter. Upon review of IBO Technology Course's response to the August 14, 2019 letter, the Commission voted to continue IBO Technology Course on Probation. In addition, the Commission found that as IBO Technology Course did not submit a fully executed teach-out agreement as requested, IBO Technology Course again failed to provide sufficient evidence that management engaged in adequate planning to ensure that students are protected in the event that the schools should close. As such, the Commission determined that the cease enrollment directive must continue. The Commission's decision to continue Probation was partly predicated on the school's failure to submit information and documentation as directed, partly predicated on the inadequacy of the material the school did submit, and partly on the school's failure to demonstrate compliance with accreditation standards. The Commission directed the school to demonstrate compliance with the following areas required by accrediting standards: financial resources; management and administrative capacity; administrative policies and procedures; refunds; instructional materials; institutional planning; faculty work experience; admissions process; advertising; program advisory committees; and employment verification.

February 2020 Commission Review and Action:

At the February 2020 meeting, the Commission considered IBO Technology Course's probationary status and the information the school provided to address the Commission's compliance findings. Upon review of the October 18, 2019 Continued Probation order and the school's response thereto, the Commission found that the school failed to meet the burden to demonstrate continuous compliance in the areas set forth below, which serve as the grounds for the Commission's withdrawal of accreditation decision.

1. IBO Technology Course failed to demonstrate that the financial structure of the school is sound, with resources sufficient for the proper operation of the school and the discharge of obligations to its students (*Section I (C)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). IBO Technology Course also failed to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local governments (*Section I (D)(3), Rules of Process of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

² In the March 14, 2019 Probation Order, the Commission directed IBO Technology Course to provide internally prepared financial statements for twelve months to cover the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, a management discussion and analysis to address the school’s current financial condition, and a copy of the schools’ budget. In response, IBO Technology Course failed to provide any of the financial information requested, only stating that due to other reporting requirements “[w]e truly, honestly need more time to respond.”

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In addition, IBO Technology Course and its branch campus located in San Sebastian failed to pay sustaining fees for FY 2019 (due December 31, 2018) (*Section I (G)(2)(e), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

³ Not due to ACCSC's cease enrollment directive.

	FY2019	FY2020	Total
IBO- Rio Grande (Main)			
IBO- San Sebastian (Branch)			

Based on the foregoing, the Commission determined that IBO Technology Course has failed to demonstrate that the school is financially sound with resources sufficient to ensure the ongoing proper operation of the school and discharge of obligations.

2. IBO Technology Course failed to demonstrate that the school has adequate management and administrative capacity in place that includes a demonstrated ability to lead and manage a postsecondary educational institution (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In reaching this conclusion, the Commission considered the school’s history of non-compliance. Despite multiple opportunities⁴ to address the concerns raised by the On-Site Evaluation Team, IBO Technology Course repeatedly provided incomplete responses stating that the school needed additional time to respond.

While the response to the October 18, 2019 letter is more complete than previous responses, the Commission found that management again failed to provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with accrediting standards. The Commission has repeatedly expressed concerns about the financial stability of the school and the school has continued to fail to provide sufficient financial information. Previously the school failed to provide the financial information requested in the March 14, 2019 letter, stating only that the school needed additional time to respond. In the October 18, 2019 Probation Order, the Commission notified IBO Technology Course that the school had failed to demonstrate the adequacy of management and its ability to operate a school in compliance with accreditation standards. Specifically the Probation Order states the following:

Given the continued number of concerns still unresolved by the school’s response, the high rate of turnover in the leadership team, and the school’s inability to fully demonstrate implementation of management and administrative oversight, the Commission continues to be concerned regarding the school’s ability to manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with ACCSC’s Standards of Accreditation.

In response to the October 18, 2019 Probation Order, IBO Technology Course did provide audited financial statements; however, the narrative response and supporting documentation for the Management Discussion and Analysis were minimal and the school failed to provide documentation for its financial assertions and the information provided.

[REDACTED]

⁴ See Commission letters dated September 12, 2018; March 14, 2019; August 14, 2019; and October 18, 2019.

Appeal and Reapplication Process and Procedure

IBO Technology Course may opt to appeal the Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation or may elect 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 IBO Technology Course 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 March 30, 2020.**
- If IBO Technology Course 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 April 20, 2020.**
- If IBO Technology Course elects not to appeal this decision, the Commission's decision will become effective **March 30, 2020.** The school may submit comments **on or before March 30, 2020** 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*.
- In accordance with *Section VII (N)(3) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the school may reapply no sooner than nine months from the date on which the denial of accreditation becomes effective.

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

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Michale S. McCombs, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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