

Commission Action Factsheet

The Commission Action Factsheet is designed to provide information on the types of actions afforded to the ACCSC Commission under the *Standards of Accreditation*. Accredited schools and schools seeking accreditation agree to adhere to the AACSC *Bylaws* and must meet or exceed the *Standards of Accreditation* throughout the application and accreditation period. For a definitive overview of Commission Actions, be sure to review *Section VII, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*. The *Standards of Accreditation* are available for review by [clicking here](#).

Initial Accreditation

Applicants for initial accreditation that are found to be in compliance with accreditation standards and requirements of the Commission will be granted accreditation status. The term of accreditation for schools seeking an initial grant of accreditation is a maximum of three years, but may be less at the discretion of the Commission.

- In cases where the school is institutionally accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and in good standing at the time of Initial Application, the Commission may consider up to a five-year term based on the school's demonstrated ability to maintain continuous compliance with accrediting standards.

Renewal of Accreditation

Applicants for renewal of accreditation that are found to be in compliance with accreditation standards and requirements will be granted renewal of accreditation. The term of accreditation for schools seeking renewal of accreditation is a maximum of five years, but may be less at the discretion of the Commission.

Initial Accreditation /Renewal of Accreditation with Stipulation

The Commission may require a school to submit a response to one or more stipulations when there is evidence that there are deficiencies in the school's compliance with accreditation standards or requirements. Stipulations are generally those items that can be corrected within a relatively short period of time. All stipulations must be met before a Commission decision to grant initial or renewal of accreditation becomes effective.

Deferral of Action

The Commission may defer any action on an application for accreditation (initial or renewal) or substantive change if additional information is required for the school to demonstrate compliance with the *Standards of Accreditation* or other accreditation requirements. Generally, in reaching a decision to defer action, the Commission will consider:

- The extent to which the school can make significant progress toward accreditation within a short period of time;
- Whether there is insufficient information about the school; and
- Whether the necessary information for the Commission to render a decision is lacking.

Warning

In cases where the Commission has reason to believe that a school is not in compliance with accreditation standards and other requirements, the Commission may at its discretion, issue a Warning to the school. A school that receives a Warning will be required to demonstrate corrective action and compliance with accrediting standards. The Commission will not consider substantive changes, a change of location/relocation, or additions (i.e., separate facilities, new programs) to a school or its separate facilities while the school is under a Warning.

Probation

In cases where the Commission has significant concerns regarding a school's compliance with accrediting standards and other requirements or has made a determination that a school is out of compliance with one or more standards the Commission may, at its discretion, place a school on probation. As part of the Probation Order, the Commission may, at its discretion, direct the school to show cause as to why the school's accreditation should not be withdrawn. The Commission will not consider substantive changes, a change of location/relocation, or additions (i.e., separate facilities, new programs) to a school or its separate facilities while the school is on Probation. A school subject to a Probation Order must inform current and prospective students in writing that the school has been placed on probation and that additional information regarding that action can be obtained from the Commission's website.

Denial of a Substantive Change Application

Following the due process required by these *Rules*, the Commission may deny a substantive change application when the Commission determines from the record that the school does not demonstrate the sufficient capacity to undertake the change and to meet accrediting standards in all required areas directly or indirectly affected by the change. A school will have an opportunity to appeal the Commission's decision to deny a substantive change in accordance with *Section VIII, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

Denial of Accreditation

Denial of Accreditation is applicable to schools applying for initial accreditation. Following the due process required by ACCSC's *Rules of Process and Procedure*, the Commission may deny a grant of accreditation to an initial applicant when the Commission determines from the record that the school does not meet the requirements specified in the *Standards of Accreditation* and that such an action is warranted. A school will have an opportunity to appeal the Commission's decision to deny accreditation in accordance with *Section VIII, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

Withdrawal of Accreditation

Following the due process required by ACCSC's *Rules of Process and Procedure*, the Commission may withdraw the accreditation of a school any time a school fails to demonstrate compliance with accreditation requirements and for any of the reasons, or combination thereof, described below. A school will have an opportunity to appeal the Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation in accordance with *Section VIII, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

- 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 attend an accreditation workshop for reaccreditation or file an Application for Renewal of Accreditation or Self-Evaluation Report.
- Failure to file a substantive change application as set forth in *Section IV, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.
- Failure to cooperate in a required on-site evaluation of the school conducted on an announced or unannounced basis.
- 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*.
- Failure to pay any required fees within the time frame established by the Commission.
- Failure to comply with a Commission order or directive.