

FAQs REGARDING SCHOOLS PLACED ON WARNING

1. What is Warning and what does it mean?

Generally, in cases where the Commission has concerns regarding an ACCSC-accredited institution's compliance with accreditation standards and other requirements, the Commission may, at its discretion, issue a Warning to the school. Warning is a fact-finding and monitoring action taken to heighten a school's awareness regarding ACCSC's concerns in one or more areas. It does not necessarily mean that the school is out of compliance with an accreditation standard, but instead that the Commission is providing an additional opportunity for the school to demonstrate that an area meets accrediting criteria.

2. Does a Warning signal a major failing at my school?

The Commission uses Warning for all types of issues from lack of payment of dues to questions regarding compliance with accrediting standards. The Warning action itself may be less important than the substance of the issue(s) that led to the Warning. This is one reason why ACCSC publishes the action on its website so that potential and current students can review the Commission's concerns and use that information to make informed decisions.

3. If my school is placed on Warning does it mean it will lose accreditation?

A school subject to a Warning is required to demonstrate corrective action and compliance with accrediting standards. Although it is rare for the Commission to go directly from a Warning to a withdrawal of accreditation action, it can happen particularly if the Commission's concerns are found to be valid and the school's actions are in fact harming students or the school is violating a law or regulation with another state or federal agency. The information posted by the Commission is a good place to start to begin to understand the level and severity of the Commission's concerns and the specific areas in question.

4. What are the next steps?

Warning actions have a designated time period for the school to respond to the Commission's concerns and the areas cited. This time frame will generally range from 90 days to one year, depending on the number and severity of the Commission's concerns and findings. The Commission's letter specifies the areas of concern, the specific information the Commission is interested in reviewing from the school in response those concerns, and the due date for the school's response. The Commission will then review the school's submission at its next meeting and issue a subsequent action. In many cases, Warning actions are resolved by the school with no elevation of the action to Probation or the withdrawal of accreditation. But, if a school does not show that it is meeting a standard by the end of the Warning period, the Commission could extend the Warning period, place the school on Probation, or in limited cases withdraw the school's accreditation.