



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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Arlington, Virginia 22201
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www.accsc.org

April 24, 2026

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

[REDACTED]
Vice President
Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology
3800 St. Lucie Boulevard
Fort Pierce, Florida 34946

*School #M060148
Appeals Panel Decision*

**Re: Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology – Fort Pierce, FL (School #M060148)
Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology – Kissimmee, FL (School #B072629)**

Dear [REDACTED]:

The above listed locations of Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology (collectively “ACAST” or “the school”) brought this appeal from the October 3, 2025 decision of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) to withdraw the school’s accreditation and remove ACAST from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. For the reasons set forth herein, the Appeals Panel voted unanimously to affirm the Commission’s decision to withdraw the accreditation of ACAST. Accordingly, pursuant to ACCSC’s *Rules of Process and Procedure*, the Commission’s decision to withdraw the accreditation of the school is hereby final, effective as of the date of this letter.

Appeal Process History

The school timely submitted a Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision and its Grounds for Appeal (“Grounds”). Pursuant to ACCSC’s *Rules of Process and Procedure*, a hearing was held before an independent Appeals Panel on January 16, 2026. This letter sets forth the decision of the Appeals Panel from that hearing.

The Commission’s Decision to Withdraw Accreditation

The history of this matter is set forth in ACCSC’s October 3, 2025 Withdrawal of Accreditation letter (pgs. 1-11) and the grounds for the Commission’s adverse accreditation decision are enumerated therein. Accordingly, the October 3, 2025 Withdrawal of Accreditation letter is incorporated herein by reference. In that letter, the Commission set forth its withdrawal of accreditation action from its August 2025 meeting having found that ACAST failed to demonstrate compliance in the following areas:

1. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school maintains an ability to meet its obligations to students on an ongoing basis (*Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).
2. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school has full-time on-site supervision by an individual or team with the demonstrated ability to lead and manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with accrediting standards (*Section I (A)(1)(a) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
3. ACAST failed to demonstrate an acceptable level of student achievement with regard to the rates of student graduation and graduate employment (*Section VII (B)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
4. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school’s student assessment approaches are implemented in a valid, reliable, fair, and where relevant, flexible manner (*Section VII (A)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

5. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school discloses the graduation rate, graduate employment rate, and as applicable licensure/certification examination pass rate for each program offered as reported to the Commission and that the disclosure for each program's graduation rate, graduate employment rate, and licensure/certification examination pass rate includes the program population base and timeframe upon which each rate is based (*Section IV (C)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
6. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school uses an enrollment agreement that includes, at a minimum, all required items listed on the ACCSC Enrollment Agreement Checklist and that clearly states the obligations of both the student and school (*Section I (C)(2)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

The October 3, 2025 Withdrawal of Accreditation letter serves to establish the Commission's grounds for withdrawal of the school's accreditation based on its findings in the areas listed above (pgs. 11-18).

ACAST's Grounds for Appeal

In its Grounds, the school expressed its rationale and arguments and provided information related to the following areas which ACCSC cited as out of compliance with accrediting standards in its adverse accreditation decision. An overarching argument made by the school throughout its Grounds is that the Commission acted unfairly and arbitrarily by taking an adverse action in advance of the expiration of the maximum timeframe set by the Commission to achieve compliance. Upon review of the record in this regard, the Appeals Panel noted the following notices provided to the school:

Given the scope and range of the concerns cited herein coupled with the fact that the school is already more than 12 months beyond its next accreditation date (February 2024), the maximum timeframe allowed for ACAST to achieve and demonstrate compliance with the Standards of Accreditation ends on March 19, 2026 unless the school can demonstrate good cause exists to extend this timeframe pursuant to Section VII (M)(2), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation.

Also, please be advised that pursuant to these Rules, the Commission is not required to allow the maximum time frame to remedy noncompliance in all instances. The Commission may establish shorter time frames as deemed appropriate (e.g., if additional safety concerns were to become apparent), including taking immediate adverse action at its next meeting if the school does not demonstrate significant improvement in its compliance with the accrediting standards cited in this letter Section VII (M)(5), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation (May 8, 2025 ACCSC Probation, Pg. 43).

and

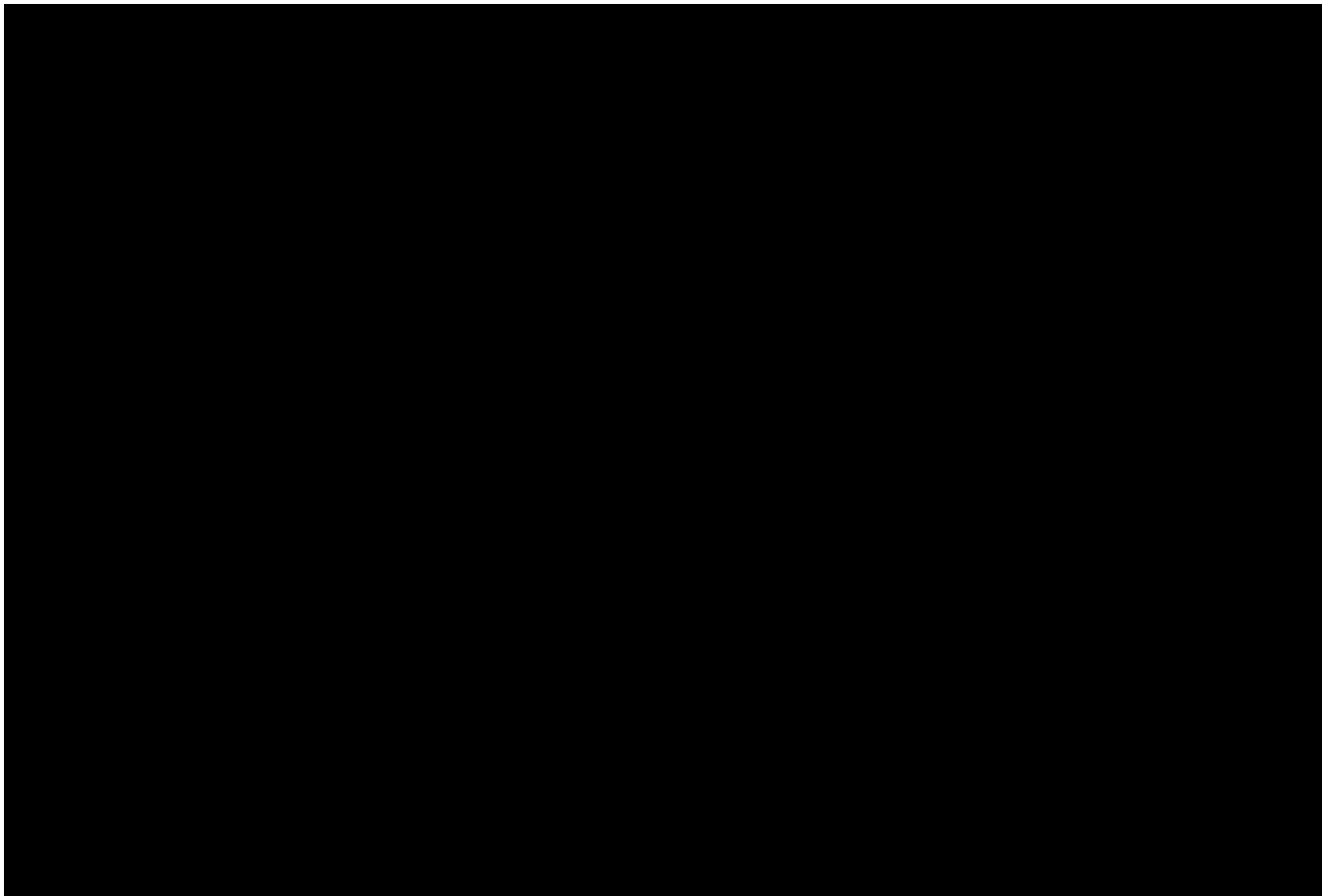
Given the scope and range of the concerns cited in the May 8, 2025 Probation, coupled with the fact that the school is already more than 12 months beyond its next accreditation date (February 2024), the maximum timeframe the Commission established for ACAST to achieve and demonstrate compliance with the Standards of Accreditation was to end March 19, 2026. The Probation notified ACAST that the Commission is not required to allow the maximum timeframe and that the Commission could take immediate adverse action at its next meeting if the school failed to demonstrate significant improvement in its compliance with the accrediting standards cited in the Probation (Section VII (L)(5), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation). Although the maximum timeframe has not yet been reached, the Commission determined that waiting until March of 2026 is not warranted at this juncture due to the overall lack of progress towards demonstrating compliance with standards; the school's failure to demonstrate that it is meeting obligations to students; the number of opportunities the school has already been afforded; and because the school's leadership team has yet to achieve stability and to show an ability or

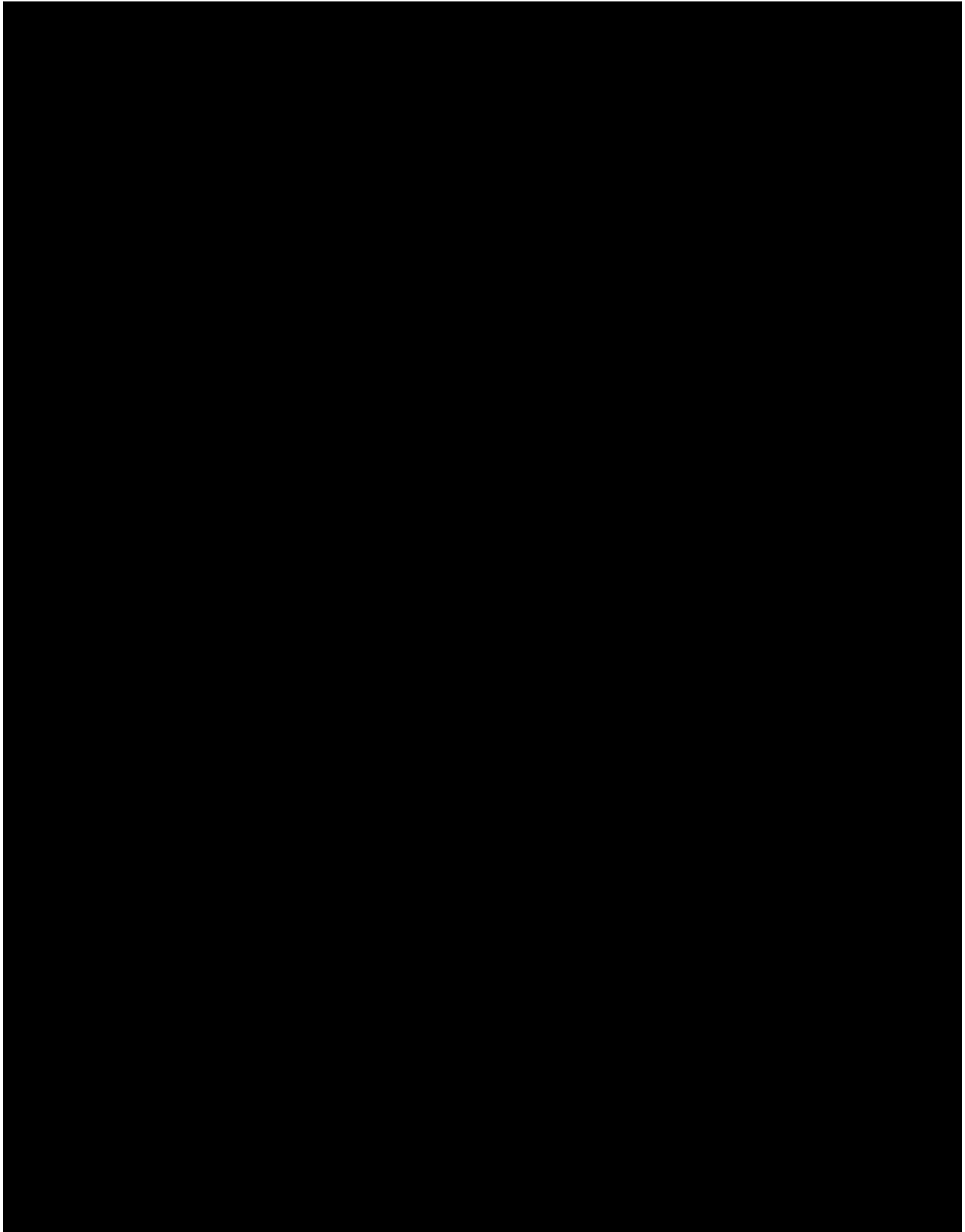
willingness to make requisite changes to its operations as a means to achieve compliance with accrediting standards (October 3, 2025 ACCSC Withdrawal of Accreditation, pg. 18).

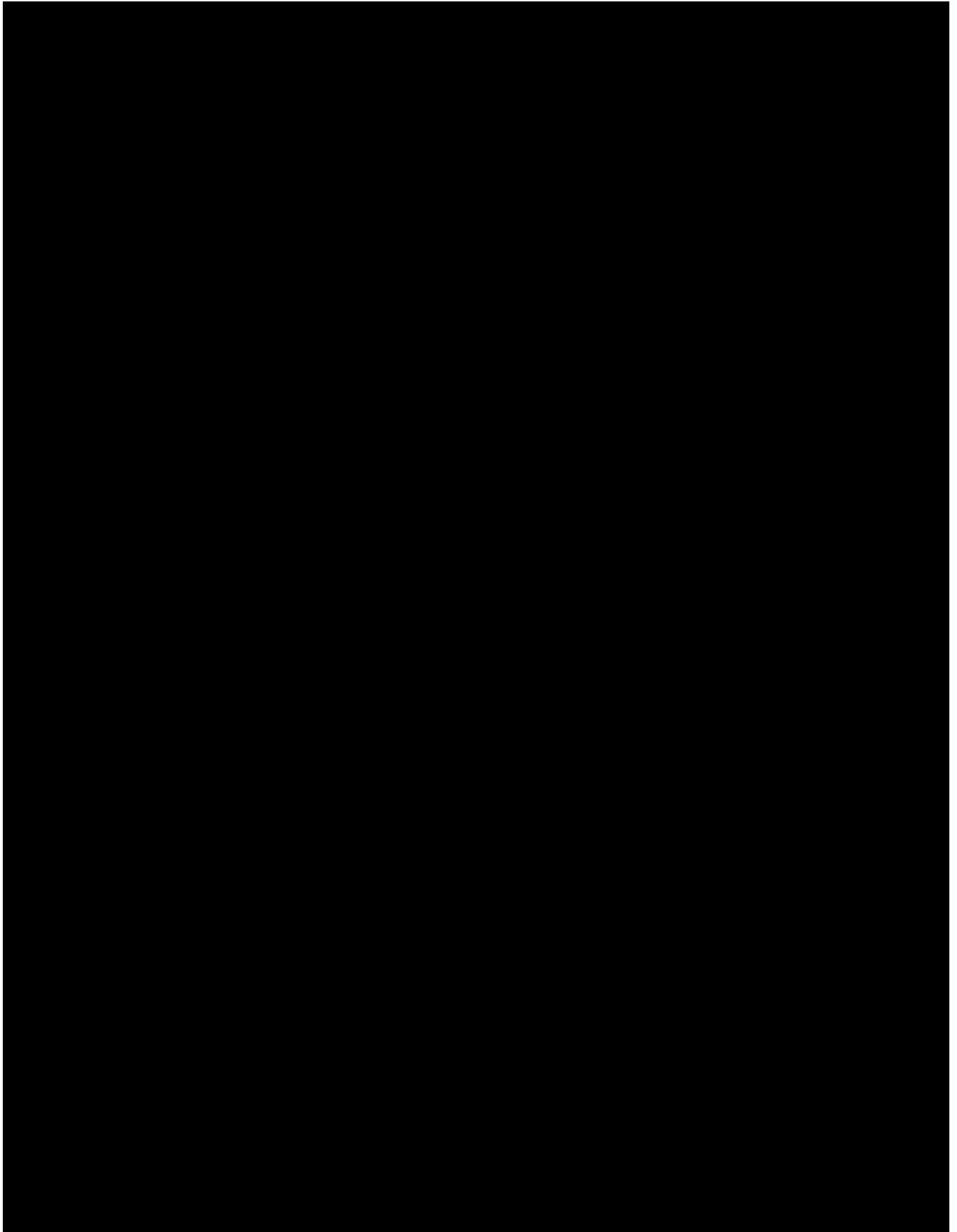
The Appeals Panel considered the school’s arguments such as its status with the FAA, whether the Commission fairly adjudged “significant” progress, and whether the Commission fairly took an “immediate action” absent a policy in its *Rules* defining the basis for such action. However, the Appeals Panel found that considering:

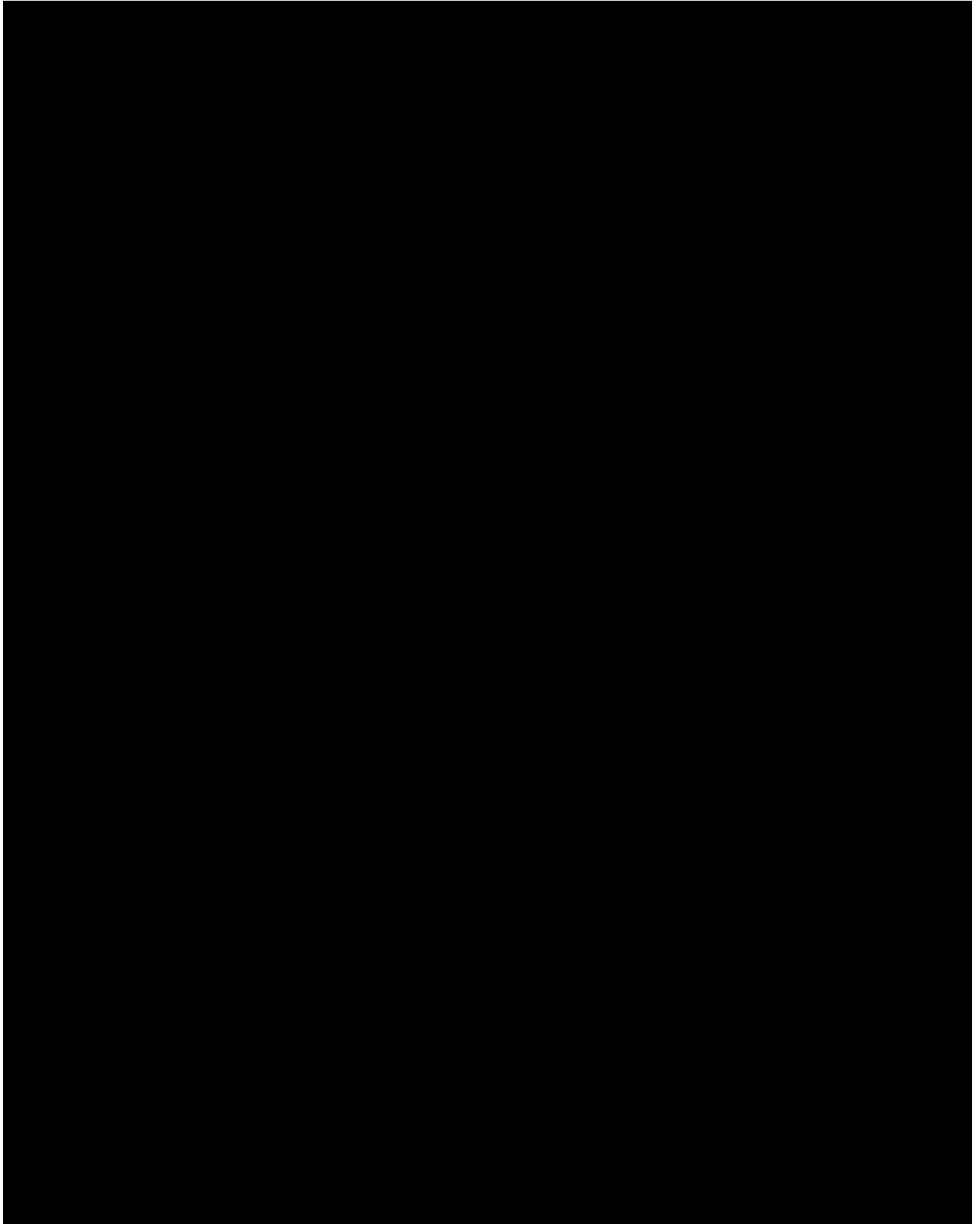
- i. The record in its entirety, the range, scope, and severity of the issues cited as non-compliance, that the school admittedly could not provide evidence of compliance or meaningful progress toward compliance in several areas;
- ii. The severity of the action and expectations set forth in a 44 page Probation Order;
- iii. The notice provided to the school that the Commission could take an adverse action in advance of the expiration of the maximum timeframe; and
- iv. The Commission’s stated rationale for taking the adverse accreditation decision at its August 2025 meeting

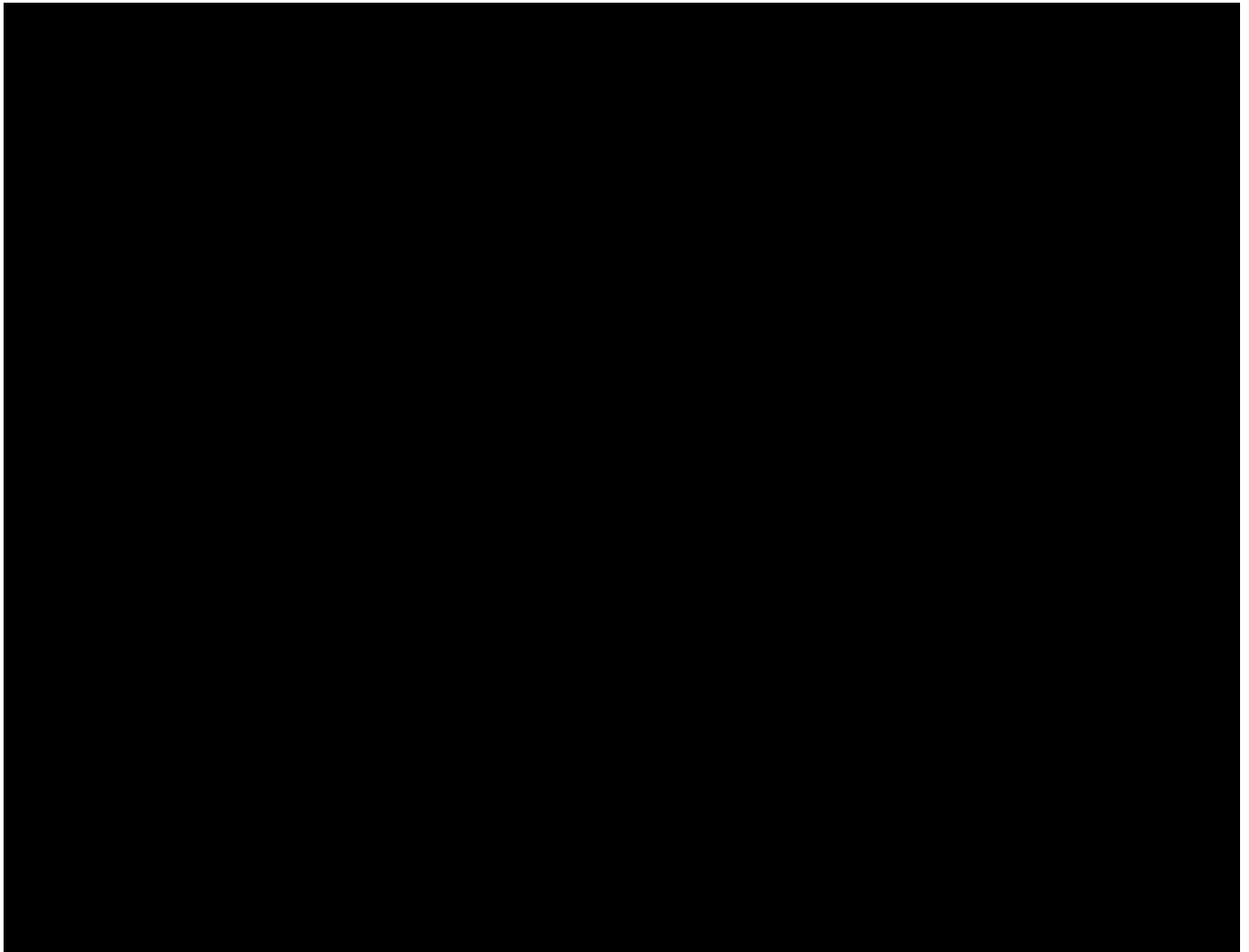
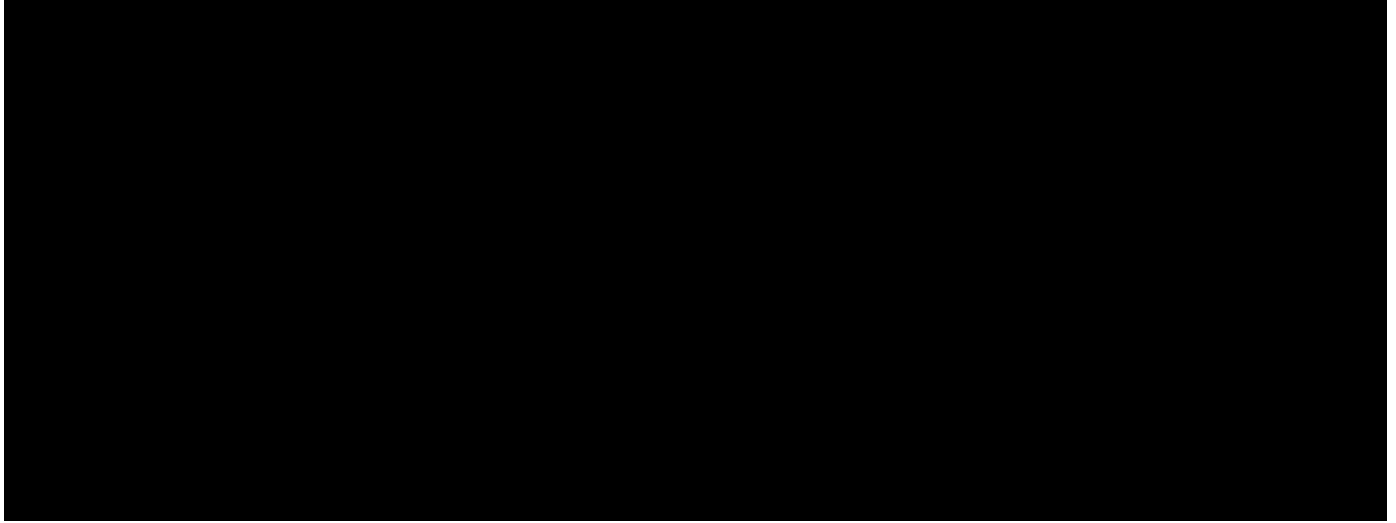
the decision to withdraw the school’s accreditation was reasonable and that the Commission was under no obligation to wait to act until May of 2026. In this regard, the Appeals Panel found that the school failed to meet its burden to show that the Commission’s decision was arbitrary, capricious, in substantial disregard of the criteria or procedures of the Commission, or not supported by evidence in the record on which the Commission took action.











Appeals Panel Decision

Section VIII (B) of the Commission’s Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation, provides that on appeal, the school has the burden of proving that the Commission’s decision to withdraw accreditation “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 action.” ACCSC’s *Rules of Process and Procedure* provide that the Appeals Panel has the authority to affirm, remand, or amend the Commission’s decision to withdraw ACAST’s accreditation. Based on a complete and thorough review of the record in this matter, the Appeals Panel concluded that ACAST has not carried its burden of proof on appeal and consequently unanimously affirms on all grounds the Commission’s decision to withdraw the school’s accreditation. Accordingly, the Commission’s decision to withdraw the accreditation of the ACAST is hereby final.

Effective Date

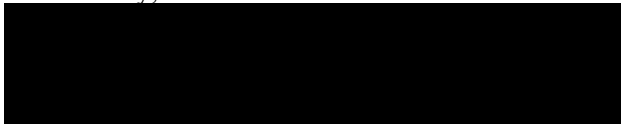
Subsequent to the Appeal Hearing but prior to the issuance of this letter ACCSC learned that ACAST ceased operation training students. The school, however, did not provide prior notice to ACCSC, which is a requirement of *Section V (E)(2), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*. Accordingly, the effective date of Commission’s final decision to withdraw the school’s accreditation is the earlier of the date of this letter or the last day the school provided training to students.

In accordance with *Section VII (Q)(7), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*, the school may re-apply no sooner than nine months from the date on which the withdrawal of accreditation becomes effective. Accordingly, ACAST may not re-apply for accreditation sooner than February 2027.

The school may submit comments **on or before May 4, 2026** in accordance with the enclosed Public Comment Disclosure Form to accompany the Commission’s disclosure of this final adverse accreditation action in accordance with *Section X (C)(4) & (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

For additional information pertaining to this matter, please contact me directly at mccomis@accsc.org.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Executive Director.

Executive Director

Encl.: ACCSC Public Comment Disclosure Form



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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PUBLIC COMMENT DISCLOSURE FORM

To Be Submitted No Later Than May 4, 2026

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

**Re: Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology
School #M060148 & School #B072629
Final Decision to Withdraw Accreditation**

I understand and agree that the Commission, pursuant to *Section X (C)(4) & (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, will make public the reasons for the adverse accreditation decision together with any comments submitted by the school.

I understand and acknowledge that a school may voluntarily submit public comments to accompany this public disclosure and that the school is not obligated to do so.

I understand and agree that any public comments must be in summary format, professional in tone, and free of profanity and calumnious statements. 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 attached comments constitute Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology’s public comments on the adverse accreditation action that will be disseminated with the public notice of the Commission’s adverse accreditation decision including, but not limited to, dissemination to appropriate federal, state and other accrediting agencies and posting to the ACCSC website (*Section X (C)(4) & (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

I understand and agree that the Commission will release the adverse accreditation decision to the public pursuant to the Commission’s *Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* and that a 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 May 4, 2026.**

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.

I attest that the attached comments are truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Name/Title



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October 3, 2025

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

██████████

Vice President
Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology
3800 St. Lucie Blvd.
Fort Pierce, Florida 34946

School #M060148
Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear ██████████:

At the August 2025 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered the previous decision to place Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology (“ACAST”) located in Fort Pierce, Florida on Probation in relation to the following:

- The ACCSC May 8, 2025 Probation;
- ACAST’s Request to Show Good Cause to apply for a change of ownership while on Probation submitted July 1, 2025;¹
- ACAST’s Response to the Commissions May 8, 2025 Probation, submitted on July 14, 2025;²
- ACAST’s Additional Information Response to the Commissions May 8, 2025 Probation, submitted on July 18, 2025; and
- The record of reviews leading up to the Probation action with regard to the school’s:
 - Application for Renewal of Accreditation;
 - Complaint Reviews;
 - Institutional Cap Enrollment Order;
 - Materials Events; and
 - Modification of Ownership Report.

Upon review of the history of these matters, the May 8, 2025 Probation, the July 1, 2025 Request to Show Good Cause, and the school’s July 14, 2025 and July 18, 2025 responses, the Commission found that:

- ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school maintains its ability to meet its obligations to students on an ongoing basis (*Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*);
- ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school has full-time on-site supervision by an individual or team with the demonstrated ability to lead and manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with accrediting standards (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
- ACAST failed to demonstrate an acceptable level of student achievement with regard to the rates of student graduation and employment reported student graduation and employment rates that do not meet ACCSC’s minimum benchmarks as outlined below (*Section VII (B)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*); and
- ACAST failed to submit the enrollment agreement in accordance with instructions or to demonstrate that the enrollment agreement includes, at a minimum, all required items listed on the ACCSC

¹ Although this request is dated June 30, 2025, the request and additional information were not received by ACCSC until July 1, 2025.

² Although this response is dated July 1, 2025, the response was not received by ACCSC until July 14, 2025.

Enrollment Agreement Checklist and that clearly states the obligations of both the student and school. (*Section IV (C)(2)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

Based on the foregoing grounds, the Commission voted to deny the Request to Show Good Cause, withdraw the accreditation of ACAST, and remove the school from the ACCSC list of accredited institutions. The history of the Commission’s review and grounds for the Commission’s decision to withdraw ACAST’s accreditation are set forth below.³

August 2025 Review & Action – Request to Show Good Cause

At the August 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed the Request to Show Good Cause (“the Request”) along with the new Application for a Change of Control-Part I. The Commission found the request and application to be incomplete and insufficient.

While ACAST asserted that the school has “undertaken meaningful corrective actions to address deficiencies” (ACAST July 1, 2025 Request to Show Good Cause, pg. 1) and invested in infrastructure, the Commission found that overall, the response lacks the necessary detail and supporting documentation to substantiate these claims. The Request references:

documented upgrades to facilities and student support services, implementation of standardized advising protocols, formalization of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) tracking, updated faculty evaluation procedures, and strengthened compliance monitoring across academic and operational departments (Id.).

However, neither the Request nor the response to the May 8, 2025 Probation demonstrate the school’s implementation of these activities. Further, the Request notes that the “transition is designed to restore full compliance with accrediting standards” (*Id.*, pg. 2) and references “the clear roadmap to full compliance” (*Id.*). In this sense, the Request acknowledges and confirms what the Commission ultimately determined in its review—that despite multiple attempts, the institution has not yet achieved compliance with accrediting standards. Moreover, although the Request references a comprehensive future plan, the Change of Control application presents only broad concepts rather than specific, detailed actions supported by ongoing institutional assessments.

Pursuant to *Section IV (E)(2)(s)(v), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, “in order to have the change of control application considered, the school and the proposed new owner must demonstrate that the proposed change of control would substantially resolve the issues cited in the [Probation]”. Overall, the Commission found that the Request fails to meet this burden; does not demonstrate that the school has taken substantial corrective action toward achieving compliance with accrediting standards; does not demonstrate that either the school or the proposed new owner have a clear and workable plan for the continuity for existing students and administrative improvement; and does not include sufficient documentation to support the narrative assertions included therein.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission found that the Request fails to show that proposed change of control would substantially resolve the issues cited in the Probation and accordingly voted to deny ACAST’s Request to Show Good Cause. Because ACAST failed to demonstrate that good cause exists to allow a change of control, the Commission did not process the otherwise incomplete Application for a Change of Control-Part I.

³ The Commission noted that although four items are included as the grounds for withdrawal, the school did not fully resolve the Commission’s compliance concerns in the areas of student assessment and academic progress, continuity of management, management policies and procedures, student safety and well-being, admissions criteria, educational administration and policies and procedures, professional development, recruitment policies and procedures, advertising, program development and evaluation, leaves of absence, employment verification, and disclosure of student achievement rates.

History of the Commission’s Review:

On April 2, 2024, ACAST notified the Commission of material events involving injurious and fatal accidents. ACCSC requested additional information from ACAST in an April 3, 2024 letter and ACAST responded to the request on April 19, 2024. Additionally, information regarding the material events is available via National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) Preliminary Reports regarding the August 17, 2023 and March 30, 2024 incidents.

May 2024 Meeting Review and Action on Incident Report:⁴

History Part I – Material Events

ACAST’s April 2, 2024 notification of material incident details two fatal and injurious incidents at the school:

- A March 30, 2024 crash resulting in 1 fatal injury and 1 serious injury and
- An August 17, 2023 crash resulting in 1 fatal injury and 1 serious injury.

The Commission found that while the school informed ACCSC of the March 30, 2024 incident within 10 days,⁵ this notification did not excuse ACAST’s past failure to provide the required notification regarding the August 17, 2023 incident. In this case, the school’s failure to timely notify ACCSC of a serious incident prevented the Commission from assessing the matter and initiating an inquiry as to the school’s compliance with accreditation and safety standards and other regulatory requirements. As such, there is heightened awareness and concern given the seriousness of these incidents and the ensuing questions that arise in regard to safety at the school. The Commission directed the school to establish a written policy regarding submitting notification to ACCSC in accordance with the requirements set forth in *Section V (F), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*. The Commission also indicated that there is no remedy to ACAST’s past failure to timely inform ACCSC as required and that the Commission would not tolerate any future failure to notify.

History Part II – Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Instructional Materials & Equipment, and Physical Facilities

Upon learning of the incidents described above, the Commission directed ACAST to demonstrate that all machinery and equipment is properly maintained and provided with proper safety devices, which are in working order and used whenever the machinery and equipment is operated (*Section II (A)(5)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). The school provided two NTSB reports with the following information:

- The NTSB Preliminary Report of the March 30, 2024 Incident appears to catalog important mechanical issues such that the Commission questioned whether they have been subject to routine evaluation and maintenance. The Commission noted its interest in reviewing documentation of the school’s ongoing safety and maintenance activities including those maintenance activities referenced below.

⁴ The full details of the Commission’s review and decision from the May 2024 meeting are captured in the May 15, 2024 Commission Letter.

⁵ Accrediting standards state that each accredited school 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 (*Section V (E)(1), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

- The NTSB Preliminary Report of the August 17, 2023 Incident appears to catalog an instructor's decision to perform a non-required maneuver that then led to acute mechanical failure and serious and fatal injuries which raised questions as to the school's safety culture.

ACAST's April 19, 2024 Response also describes changes to the school's safety and maintenance operations following the August 17, 2023 and March 30, 2024 incidents.

The Commission stated its interest in reviewing documentation of the school's efforts, implementation, and also the school's documentation of its baseline safety operations and the consistency of its efforts to maintain a learning environment that treats student/faculty safety and wellbeing as paramount. The Commission held that a culture of safety should be a consistent and serious endeavor particularly in an industry where risk of injury or fatality has a higher likelihood when diligence is not central to school operations. The Commission additionally questioned why certain practices were not in place previously regardless of whether such practices are required by the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA").

Based on its review at the May 2024 meeting of the school's response in regard to student safety, emergency preparedness, physical facilities, the Commission directed the school, *inter alia*, to:

- Document its approach to safety and maintenance both before and after the incidents;
- Demonstrate that the school's student services program encompasses student safety and well-being (*Section VI (A)(3)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
- Show that the school's written Emergency Preparedness Plan includes appropriate emergency scenario identification and concordant action plans (*Section I (G)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*); and
- Provide a written description of the incidents and to show any additions/revisions to the school's Emergency Preparedness Plan or other safety policies/training as a result of these events, as necessary.⁶

History Part III – Anonymous Complaints

On April 22, and 29, 2024, the Commission received two anonymous complaints. The complaints allege that ACAST may not be in compliance with the Commission's standards in the areas of ownership, management, and administrative capacity, financial responsibility, instructional materials and equipment, program design, program length, enrollment agreements, educational administration, faculty qualifications, student services, and complaints. The Commission requested ACAST's response to the complaints.

History Part IV – Institutional Cease Enrollment

The questions and concerns raised during the May 2024 review as captured in the May 15, 2024 Commission letter with regard to the school's maintenance and safety operations created heightened awareness of the safety of the school's current student body. Moreover, ACAST's failure to notify ACCSC in a timely manner as required prevented the Commission from undertaking a timely review of pertinent information in these areas. Thus, in order to allow for the review of this information and to put a check on student safety concerns, the Commission directed the school to Cease Enrollment for a period of time to be determined through the remainder of the review of these issues.

⁶ The school must have a written emergency preparedness plan that is made available to all staff, faculty, and students, and includes emergency scenario identification and concordant action plans, evacuation and lockdown procedures, communication protocols for sharing information with appropriate parties during and following an incident, orientation for students, and regular training for staff and faculty (*Section I (G)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

August 2024 Meeting – Commission Review, Findings, and Directives⁷

At the August 2024 meeting, the Commission considered the following:

- The May 15, 2024 Warning and Institutional Cease Enrollment Directive;
- The June 23, 2024 On-Site Evaluation Report;
- ACAST’s respective July 3, 2024 and July 2024 Responses to those letters; and
- ACAST’s August 1, 2024 update to its July 3, 2024 response.

The Commission communicated its concern with regard to the safety of ACAST’s students and ACAST’s ability to institute a culture of safety remains central to the Commission’s range of concerns regarding the school’s compliance with multiple accrediting standards, including minimally those relating to student services, emergency preparedness, instructional equipment, and physical facilities.

The Commission noted ACAST’s, albeit limited, initiatives and efforts to implement improvements and to show documentation of such progress. Even so, the Commission was gravely concerned by the FAA’s findings; unsafe plane operations, and the non-ability to redress or address them along with another accident; possible and near violations of FAA regulations; and non-cooperation with the FAA are serious issues regardless of any finding of regulatory violation. The Commission maintained a strong interest in the FAA’s response to the school’s efforts and any additional findings, inspections, scrutiny, or correspondence from the FAA.

The Commission further communicated 26 areas of continued concern in its November 26, 2024 Warning letter. The issues included obligations to students; management and administrative capacity; student achievement; graduate employment verification, institutional assessment and improvement activities; refund policy; student needs; safety and well-being; operational policies; professional development; continuity of instruction; faculty qualifications; verification of faculty prior work experience; student assessment; recruitment efforts; recruitment policies; enrollment agreement; program evaluation; academic integrity; transfer credit; learning resource system; leave of absence; disclosure of graduation and employment rates; advertising; student complaints; and branch oversight.

November 2024 Meeting – Commission Review, Findings, and Directives⁸

At the November 2024 meeting, the Commission reviewed the following:

- September 13, 2024 Commission Warning Letter with Institutional Cease Enrollment Directive and
- ACAST’s October 21, 2024 Response.

Upon review of the above, the Commission voted to:

- Continue ACAST on Warning with the findings expressed to be aligned and merged with the Commission’s concurrent findings from the August 2024 meeting,⁹ all of which to be reviewed at ACCSC’s February 2025 meeting;
- Lift its previous Cease Enrollment Directive; and

⁷ The full details of the Commission’s review and decision from the August 2024 meeting are captured in the September 13, 2024 Commission letter.

⁸ The full details of the Commission’s review and decision from the November 2024 meeting are captured in the December 4, 2024 Commission letter.

⁹ See the November 26, 2024 Warning.

- Cap ACAST’s enrollment.

The safety of ACAST’s students and ACAST’s ability to institute a culture of safety remains central to the Commission’s range of concerns regarding the school’s compliance with multiple accrediting standards. The Commission noted that the school clearly is attempting to prioritize safety initiatives and understands that this process will take time.

The school’s efforts following the noted incidents provided the Commissions with a minimally adequate level of trust regarding improvements with safety initiatives. Accordingly, the Commission determined to lift its Cease Enrollment Directive but to place ACAST on a Cap Enrollment Directive whereby ACAST cannot have an enrollment in excess of 112 students in the Aeronautical Science (AOS) degree program and 35 students in the Commercial Pilot (Certificate) program (a total of 147 students) at any time. The enrollment cap directive was meant to allow the school to focus on its safety initiatives and to continue scaling and promoting student safety and progress through the educational programs.

February 2025 Meeting – Commission Review, Findings, and Directives¹⁰

At the February 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed the following:

- November 26, 2024 Commission Warning letter;
- ACAST’s January 22, 2025 Response;
- December 4, 2024 Commission Warning letter with Institutional Cap Enrollment Directive;
- ACAST’s January 23, 2025 Response;
- Complaints Review; and
- The record of reviews leading up to the Probation action.

Upon review of the above, the Commission voted to continue ACAST on Probation and to direct ACAST to continue the Institutional Cap Enrollment Directive.

Specifically, the Commission determined areas of non-compliance with accrediting standards and additional areas of on-going concern regarding compliance with accrediting standards as follows and as set forth in the May 8, 2025 Probation:

I. Areas of Non-Compliance with Accrediting Standards

1. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school maintains its ability to meet its obligations to students on an ongoing basis (*Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).
2. ACAST did not demonstrate:
 - Full-time on-site supervision by an individual or team with the appropriate combination of education, experience, and demonstrated ability to lead and manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with accrediting standards (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
 - Appropriate administrative and operational policies and procedures to which the school adheres, reviews, and updates as needed (*Section I (A)(1)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*); and

¹⁰ The full details of the Commission’s review and decision from the February 2025 meeting are captured in the May 8, 2025 Commission letter.

- Continuity of management and administrative capacity through the reasonable retention of management and administrative staff (*Section I (A)(4) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
3. ACAST did not demonstrate an acceptable level of student achievement with regard to the rates of student graduation and employment reported student graduation and employment rates that do not meet ACCSC's minimum benchmarks as outlined below (*Section VII (B)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Appendix VI, Standards of Accreditation*).
 4. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school supports student achievement rates through the school's verifiable records and documentation of initial employment of its graduates (*Section VII (B)(2)(b) & Appendix VII, Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 5. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school is both attentive to its students' needs as a means to support retention and also maintains written policies and procedures addressing student services, and makes students aware of such services (*Section VI (A)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 6. ACAST did not demonstrate that:
 - The school's student services program encompasses student safety and well-being (*Section VI (A)(3)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
 - The school maintains comprehensive documentation of student advising sessions (*Section VI (A)(4), Substantive Standard, Standards of Accreditation*).
 7. ACAST did not demonstrate that:
 - The school has operational policies necessary to adequately support educational programs and faculty (*Section III (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
 - The school's chief pilot who acts as oversight with responsibilities typical of a director of education has an earned degree at least one level higher than the highest degree offered by the school (*Section III (A)(1)(b)(ii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 8. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school staff and faculty participate in professional development activities by clearly showing the following:
 - Members of school management and administrative employees participate in ongoing development and training activities that support their particular roles in the school (*Section I (A)(3) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
 - The school's faculty and educational administrators engage in ongoing faculty assessment and professional development activities that are: appropriate to the size and scope of the school's educational programs; support the quality of education provided; and enhance student learning and achievement and the school did not document the implementation of assessment and professional development activities for its faculty (*Section III (A)(2), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*); and
 - The school's faculty engage in ongoing development of teaching skills as part of its plan for faculty improvement (*Section III (B)(4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 9. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school ensures the continuity of instruction through the reasonable retention of the educational administrative staff and faculty (*Section III (A)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

10. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school verifies prior work experience and maintains documentation of academic credentials of all faculty members and administrators (*Section III (A)(4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
- Faculty members have appropriate qualifications and be able to teach in a manner that permits announced educational objectives to be achieved and that all faculty are able to demonstrate a command of theory and practice, contemporary knowledge, and continuing study in their field (*Section III (B)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

11. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- Faculty teaching technical and occupationally related courses in an academic associate degree program have a minimum of four years of related practical work experience in the subject area(s) taught and possess a related degree at least at the same level of the course the faculty member is teaching (*Section III (B)(7) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
- Faculty teaching technical and occupationally related courses in non-degree degree programs have a minimum of three years of related practical work experience in the subject area(s) taught (*Section III (B)(5), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*); and
- Faculty members have received training in instructional methods and teaching skills or are experienced teachers and that should a school hire a faculty member without prior training or experience, the school provides training before the faculty member assumes primary instructional responsibilities in any classroom, curriculum, laboratory, or program related training (*Section III (B)(4), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

12. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school has a developed and structured process to assess and evaluate the defined student learning outcomes of the education and training and established competencies (e.g., the application of knowledge and skills to the standard of performance articulated in the program objectives and as expected in the workplace) and that this process includes a variety and combination of methods such as grading, portfolio assessment, and criterion referenced testing based on developed and appropriate rubrics (*Section VII (A)(2)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
- The school's student assessment approaches are documented for each course or program offered and are designed and implemented in a valid, reliable, fair and, where relevant, flexible manner (*Section VII (A)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
- Student learning outcomes for each program are consistent with the program objectives defined by the institution's program design and development process (*Section VII (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
- The school establishes a policy and process to assess student academic progress throughout the program and to inform students of their academic progress at established and specific intervals. At each interval specified, the school determines the likelihood that the student will be able to attain the minimum cumulative grade point average required for graduation and in those instances when the school determines that a student has not met minimum cumulative grade point average requirements, the school places the student on academic probation or terminates the student, based on the school's established policies (*Section VII (A)(3)(a)(i-ii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

13. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school’s recruitment efforts focus on attracting students who are qualified and likely to complete and benefit from the education and training provided by the school and not simply obtaining enrollments (*Section IV (A)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
- The school has admissions criteria that are designed to admit only those students who are reasonably capable of successfully completing and benefiting from the training offered (*Section V (A)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

14. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school’s personnel are trained and qualified to engage in recruiting activities (*Section IV (A)(5), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
- The school has in place policies and procedures and takes reasonable steps to ensure that its personnel do not make false, exaggerated, or misleading statements about the school, its personnel, its training, its services, or its accredited status and to ensure that its personnel do not make explicit or implicit promises of employment or salary prospects to prospective students (*Section IV (A)(8), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*);
- The school internally reviews and evaluates its recruiting policies and procedures and the performance of personnel involved in recruiting activities for compliance with accrediting standards and applicable law and regulation at least once annually and maintains documentation of the review and evaluation (*Section IV (A)(9), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

15. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school furnishes a copy of the enrollment agreement to the applicant at the time the applicant signs and furnishes a final copy of the enrollment agreement signed by both parties to the student prior to the student starting class (*Section IV (C)(2)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
- An enrollment agreement is not binding until it has been signed by the student and accepted by the appropriate school official (*Section IV (C)(2)(e), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

16. ACAST did not demonstrate that:

- The school has a systemic and evidence-based program evaluation process for each occupational program, or each group of related occupational programs designed to:
 - Evaluate curriculum and course content;
 - Assess the appropriateness of that coursework in relation to program objectives;
 - Assess the adequacy of program equipment and supporting resource materials;
 - Assess student achievement outcomes and program viability; and
 - Make revisions to the curriculum as deemed necessary (*Section II (A)(4)(a)(i-v), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
- The school’s program evaluation process is comprehensive, conducted by faculty and educational administrators regularly, and uses input from internal and external sources including the following:
 - An independent and diverse Program Advisory Committee (“PAC”) for each program area;
 - Student and alumni input collected through sources; and

- Other resources as useful, needed, and appropriate (*Section II (A)(4)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
17. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school promotes academic integrity and has policies and controls to discourage academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) and clearly communicates the consequences of such behavior (*Section VII (A)(2)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 18. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school has established appropriate criteria (e.g., comparability, applicability, source, and age of the previously earned credit; academic preparedness of the student at the time of credit transfer; grade earned for the credit to be transferred; etc.) and that the school applies a systematic, consistent process for determining whether to accept credit earned at other institutions for transfer (*Section II (A)(10)(a)(i), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 19. ACAST did not demonstrate that:
 - The use of the learning resource system (“LRS”) materials are integrated into a school’s curriculum and program requirements as a mechanism to enhance the educational process and to facilitate positive learning outcomes for students (*Section II (A)(6)(c), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*) and
 - Qualified personnel orient, train, and assist students and faculty in the use of the learning resource system in a manner that supports learning objectives (*Section II (A)(6)(e), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 20. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school has a process for student’s to request a leave of absence, for the school to approve such a request, and that if a student does not return following a leave of absence the school will a) terminate the student and b) apply the school’s refund policy in accordance with the applicable and published requirements (*Section VII (A)(3)(c)(i & iii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 21. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school discloses the graduation rate, graduate employment rate, and as applicable licensure certification examination pass rate for each program offered as last reported to the Commission and that the disclosure for each program’s graduation rate, graduation employment rate, and licensure/certification examination pass rate includes the program population base and timeframe upon which each rate is based (*Section IV (C)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 22. ACAST did not demonstrate that all advertising, promotional materials, statements, and claims are truthful and accurate and avoid leaving any misleading, misrepresenting, or exaggerated impressions with respect to the school or its training (*Section IV (B)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
 23. As the main school bears ultimate responsibility and accountability for its branch campus (*Section VIII (B)(1), substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*), ACAST did not demonstrate that its branch campus located in Kissimmee, Florida is adequately managed in accordance with the requirements of *Section I, Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*.

II. Additional Areas of On-Going Concern Regarding Compliance with ACCSC Accrediting Standards

1. ACAST must demonstrate that the school’s physical facilities are sufficient to create an effective and suitable learning environment (e.g., resources, safety, etc.) (*Section I (G)(2), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

2. ACAST must demonstrate that all machinery and equipment is properly maintained and provided with proper safety devices, which are in working order and used whenever the machinery and equipment is operated (*Section II (A)(5)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).
3. ACAST must demonstrate that the school has and adheres to a policy and procedure for fairly and consistently handling and addressing student complaints (*Section VI (D)(1), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

The Commission noted that while participation in the process of accreditation is voluntary on the part of the school, schools seeking to maintain accreditation agree to support the accreditation process and to meet or exceed the *Standards of Accreditation* throughout the application and accreditation period. The burden rests with the school to show that it is meeting its mission, serving students, and meeting all requirements of the *Standards of Accreditation* in order to maintain ACCSC accreditation. That the school's staff have chosen to, in some notable cases, abdicate that burden leaves the Commission to find the school out of compliance both with those associated areas but also with fundamental requirements of the accreditation process and standards. Because the burden rests with the school to establish that it is meeting accrediting standards, a school must supply the Commission with complete information and documentation showing the school's compliance with all accrediting standards if the school is to maintain accreditation.

Regarding the school's maximum timeframe to achieve compliance, the Commission, in its May 8, 2025 Probation elected to establish separate timeframes for the identified areas of noncompliance. Specifically, given the scope and range of the concerns cited coupled with the fact that the school is already more than 12 months beyond its next accreditation date (February 2024), the maximum timeframe allowed for ACAST to achieve and demonstrate compliance with the *Standards of Accreditation* ends on March 19, 2026 unless the school can demonstrate good cause exists to extend this timeframe pursuant to *Section VII (M)(2), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*. Importantly, the Commission also specifically notified ACAST that ACCSC is not required to allow the maximum time frame to remedy noncompliance in all instances and may establish shorter time frames as deemed appropriate, including taking immediate adverse action at its next meeting if the school does not demonstrate significant improvement in its compliance with the accrediting standards. The Commission determined to take such action at its August 2025 meeting.

August 2025 Review and Grounds for Withdrawal of Accreditation Action

At the August 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the totality of the record in this matter and the previous decision to continue ACAST on Probation. Upon review of the Commission's May 8, 2025 Probation and the school's response, the Commission found that the school failed to meet its burden to demonstrate continuous compliance with the *Standards of Accreditation* in the areas cited below (*Preamble, Standards of Accreditation*). The following are the grounds for the Commission's decision to withdraw ACAST's accreditation.

1. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school maintains an ability to meet its obligations to students on an ongoing basis (*Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). At issue is the school's failure to provide instruction in a timely manner, specifically flight time, due to equipment malfunctions and scheduling issues. As of July 2024, 47% (63 of 135) of students were more than 100 days behind schedule and as of the January 2025 response, the percentage of students more than 100 days behind schedule worsened to 91% (103 of 113). As stated in the May 8, 2025 Probation letter, "[d]espite any efforts by the school, the Commission has determined that it is unacceptable and not in compliance with *Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* for the school to have fallen so far behind in a fundamental aspect of education, such as providing timely instruction to its students" (ACCSC's May 8, 2025 Probation letter, pg. 5). In response, ACAST

reported that as of June 2025, 25% (29 of 115) of the school’s students were behind schedule with 21 of those students being 100 or more days behind schedule. The school provided a chart identifying the length of time students are behind in days, ranging from 29 to 822 days behind schedule as follows:

Student ID #	Program/Rating	Start Date	Original Estimated Graduation Date	Updated Estimated Graduation Date	# of Days Behind Schedule
	AS / CFII	1/10/2022	1/10/2025	8/01/2025	150
	AS / CFII Initial	1/10/2022	1/10/2025	6/20/2025	150
	AS / CFI ADD-ON	5/2/2022	5/2/2025	7/11/2025	38
	AS / CFII Add on	5/2/2022	5/02/2025	6/20/2025	38
	AS / CFII ADD ON	5/2/2022	5/2/2025	4/12/2025	38
	Commercial / CPL	1/10/2022	3/10/2023	7/23/2025	822
	Commercial / CPL	7/6/2022	9/6/2023	COMPLETED	642
	Commercial / CPL	9/6/2022	11/6/2023	6/6/2025	581
	Commercial / CPL	9/6/2022	11/6/2023	8/15/2025	581
	Commercial IR	1/18/2023	3/18/2024	12/1/2025	448
	Commercial / CPL	1/18/2023	3/18/2024	7/1/2025	448
	Commercial / CPL	3/16/2023	5/16/2024	9/12/2025	389
	Commercial / CPL	5/16/2023	7/16/2024	7/1/2025	328
	Commercial / CPL	5/16/2023	7/16/2024	6/21/2025	328
	Commercial / CPL	5/16/2023	7/16/2024	COMPLETED	328
	Commercial / CPL	7/7/2023	9/7/2024	7/19/2025	275
	Commercial / CPL	8/28/2023	10/28/2024	W	224
	Commercial / CPL	8/28/2023	10/28/2024	5/17/2025	224
	Commercial / CPL	8/28/2023	10/28/2024	7/19/2025	224
	Commercial / CPL	8/28/2023	10/28/2024	COMPLETED	224
	Commercial / CPL	10/16/2023	12/16/2024	6/6/2025	175
	Commercial / CPL	10/16/2023	12/16/2024	3/1/2026	175
	Commercial / CPL	10/16/2023	12/16/2024	7/1/2025	175
	Commercial / CPL	10/16/2023	12/16/2024	8/12/2025	175
	Commercial / CPL	1/18/2024	3/18/2025	6/21/2025	83
	Commercial / CPL	1/18/2024	3/18/2025	10/18/2025	83
	Commercial / CPL	3/11/2024	5/11/2025	5/28/2025	29
	Commercial / CPL	3/11/2024	5/11/2025	6/28/2025	29
	Commercial / CPL	3/11/2024	5/11/2025	10/2/2025	29

Overall, although the percentage of students who are behind schedule did improve, the fact that over 25% of students at ACAST are behind schedule and 18% significantly behind schedule failed to demonstrate that ACAST has sufficiently rectified the contributing problems and issues and has failed to demonstrate that the school is meeting its obligations to students on an ongoing basis (*Section I (G)(2)(b), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

2. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school has full-time on-site supervision by an individual or team with the demonstrated ability to lead and manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with accrediting standards (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). Despite being extended three opportunities to address identified concerns, the school has failed to resolve issues in the following areas:
 - Continuity of management;
 - Requisite policies and procedures;
 - Professional development;
 - Program evaluation; and
 - Leaves of absence.

Each of these areas are set forth below and also represent the grounds for the Commission’s withdrawal of accreditation action.

Continuity of Management

ACAST failed to demonstrate a continuity of management and administrative capacity through the reasonable retention of management and administrative staff (*Section I (A)(4) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In the June 23, 2024 OER, the team observed the following with regard to the management team:

Since the last cycle of accreditation, president, owner, and chief executive officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has taken a lesser role in the everyday operation of the school due to health reasons and the former director of the Fort Pierce campus, [REDACTED] is no longer employed by the institution. At the time of the on-site evaluation, the school was led by the Vice President, [REDACTED]; the Director of Academic Affairs, [REDACTED] who joined the team in the fall of 2023; and [REDACTED] acted as the Chief Pilot/Interim Lead Faculty/Director of Education.”

Subsequent to the on-site evaluation, [REDACTED] departed in September 2024, replaced by [REDACTED] as Chief Pilot in October 2024. [REDACTED] departed in March 2025, replaced by [REDACTED], who was promoted from Dean/Registrar to VP of Academic Affairs on April 1, 2025. President and owner, [REDACTED], passed away in April 2025, and the ownership passed on to his wife, [REDACTED]. Overall, the Commission found that vis-a-vis these significant changes the school did not demonstrate that the leadership/management team has stabilized sufficiently to effect the changes necessary to demonstrate compliance with the several areas of concern and non-compliance with accrediting standards as cited throughout this review process.

Requisite Policies and Procedures

- ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school has appropriate administrative and operational policies and procedures to which the school adheres, reviews, and updates as needed (*Section I (A)(1)(d), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). As part of the May 8, 2025 Probation letter, the Commission directed the school to submit a copy of its updated administrative and operational policies and procedures along with documentation that the school adheres to those policies. ACAST did not respond to this directive.
- ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school has operational policies necessary to adequately support educational programs and faculty (*Section III (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). While the school submitted a title page for an “Aviator College Operational Policies and Procedures Manual” and a four-page Table of Contents, the remaining document is not included. Although the rest of the response includes excerpts of a limited number of policies and procedures, the school did not present the entire document and thus did not demonstrate that the school has operational policies that support the educational programs and faculty. Without these policies and procedures, ACAST failed to demonstrate the ability to lead and manage the institution in compliance with accrediting standards.
- ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school internally reviews and evaluates its recruiting policies and procedures and the performance of personnel involved in recruiting activities for compliance with accrediting standards and applicable law and regulation at least once annually and maintains documentation of the review and evaluation (*Section IV (A)(9), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). According to the response, the review of recruiting policies and procedures is now embedded into the institutional assessment and improvement process. The school stated that each quarter the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Human Resources reviews recruitment practices for compliance with ACCSC standards, accuracy of institutional representation, and

effectiveness in serving prospective students. Specifically, per ACAST's July 1, 2025 Probation Response (pg. 110), this process includes:

1. *Evaluation of current policies and procedures for clarity, compliance, and effectiveness.*
2. *Assessment of employee adherence to ethical recruiting conduct as outlined in the Admissions Code of Conduct.*
3. *Use of performance metrics such as inquiry response time, documentation of interactions in the SIS, and feedback from prospective students.*
4. *Individual coaching or additional training for staff where deficiencies are noted.*

However, the response does not include documentation of the process (e.g., the assessment tool) or evidence that the school has followed this process. As such, the school did not demonstrate that management has employed an oversight mechanism required to evaluate its recruiting policies and procedures and the performance of personnel involved in recruiting activities.

Professional Development

ACAST failed to demonstrate that management and administrative employees participate in ongoing development and training activities that support their particular roles in the school (*Section I (A)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In its July 1, 2025 Probation Response, ACAST provided a Professional Development Plan that identifies an annual calendar overview of the professional development activities to be completed by quarter. The response, however, does not include evidence that the staff have participated in the training and development activities listed. Additionally, the Professional Development Plan states that each faculty and staff member would create an individual development plan with their supervisor, however ACAST provided no evidence that these professional development plans have been created for any faculty or staff member. As such, ACAST did not demonstrate that faculty and staff engage in professional development activities that ensure the school is managed by appropriately trained staff or that the education is delivered by faculty that are able to teach in a manner that permits educational objectives to be achieved.

Program Evaluation

ACAST did not demonstrate that the school's program evaluation process is comprehensive, conducted by faculty and educational administrators regularly, and uses input from internal and external sources (*Section II (A)(4)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In its July 1, 2025 Probation Response, ACAST provided a new plan for program evaluation including internal review and external review by a Program Advisory Committee. However, ACAST did not provide evidence that the school has implemented the plan. Additionally, the school's Program Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet after the school's response was due and as a result the school did not provide evidence of compliant Program Advisory Committee review of its programs. As ACAST was unable to demonstrate in its July 1, 2025 Probation Response that it has completed any program evaluation, the school did not demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

Leaves of Absence

ACAST did not demonstrate that the school has a process for students to request a leave of absence, for the school to approve such a request, and that if a student does not return following a leave of absence the school will a) terminate the student and b) apply the school's refund policy in accordance with the applicable and published requirements (*Section VII (A)(3)(c)(i & iii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In its July 1, 2025 Probation Response, ACAST indicated that the school's leave of absence policy has been revised to align with SEVIS requirements; however, the response does not describe the SEVIS requirements. In addition, the school stated the policy has been updated to

permit leaves of absence for vacation or family reunification; however, the response does not include a copy of the policy for the Commission’s review. Although ACAST submitted documentation of approved leave requests, in absence of the school’s policy, ACAST did not demonstrate fair and consistent execution of the policy.

Based on the foregoing summary, ACAST did not demonstrate compliance with multiple accrediting standards despite being given repeated opportunities to address deficiencies. The school did not show stable and qualified leadership, provide complete and updated administrative and operational policies, and implement effective oversight mechanisms in key areas such as professional development, recruitment, advertising, and program evaluation. As such, ACAST also failed to demonstrate that the school has full-time on-site supervision by an individual or team with the demonstrated ability to lead and manage a post-secondary educational institution in compliance with accrediting standards (*Section I (A)(1)(a), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

3. ACAST failed to demonstrate an acceptable level of student achievement with regard to the rates of student graduation and employment and graduate employment (*Section VII (B)(2)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). The following is a table of student achievement rates reported in the 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports, as well as the rates drawn from Graduation and Employment Charts submitted with the response, prepared with a January 2025 Report Date.

Program (Credential)	Lenth in Months	ACAST Graduation Rates				ACAST Employment Rates			
		2023	2024	January 2025	Benchmark	2023	2024	January 2025	Benchmark
Aeronautical Sciences (AS)	24	38%	54%	50%	43%	19%	93%	61%	70%
Commercial Pilot (Certificate)	12	72%	38%	38%	55%	36%	0%	0%	70%

With regard to the graduation rate, ACAST previously explained that the graduation rate for the Commercial Pilot (Certificate) program was impacted by students not completing the program within 150% of the length of the program due to the delays in scheduling. In the July 1, 2025 Probation Response to the Commission’s question about whether the school has extended the maximum timeframe for students in the Commercial Pilot program, ACAST responded as follows:

Most students currently experiencing training delays are enrolled in the Commercial Pilot Program, specifically within the Commercial multi- engine phase which was impossible to rectify quickly based on the size of the backlog at the end of September 2024.

Now that this retraining process has been completed, and additional qualified instructors are available, no further delays are anticipated. Most students who experienced setbacks are now actively progressing toward completion (pgs. 33-34).

The Commission found that the response does not address the issue of how the delays in completing the program are preventing students from graduating within the maximum timeframe for the Commercial Pilot (Certificate) program and whether those students were reported accurately on the Graduation and Employment Charts. ACAST provided a list of 21 students that were more than 100 days behind schedule in completing the program. Of those, 19 are enrolled in the Commercial Pilot program. The school provided a start date, the original estimated graduation date, and an updated estimated graduation date for 15 students. Those dates show that, on average, the school originally projected it would take 14 months to graduate from the 12-month Pilot Program; however, based on the school’s updated estimates, students would take on average of 30 months to graduate, well beyond the maximum timeframe, or 150% of the normal duration.

The school's July 1, 2025 Probation Response refers to combining graduation and employment data on one chart to show the overall success of the institution; however, the exhibits contain separate charts for the programs, reporting those rates identified above. According to this response, the graduation rate for the Aeronautical Sciences (AS) program is 78% and the Commercial Pilot (Certificate) program is 82%; however, there is no explanation as to how the school calculated these rates, which are inconsistent with the data reported on the Graduation and Employment Charts. The July 1, 2025 Probation Response claims:

The January 2025 G&E chart confirms that ACAST:

- *Meets or surpasses ACCSC benchmark thresholds.*
- *Provides a robust pathway from initial certificates through associate-degree completion.*
- *Supplies the industry with well-prepared, safety-minded aviators (pg. 37).*

The Commission found that based on data provided, these conclusions are unfounded.¹¹

Additionally, ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school supports student achievement rates through the school's verifiable records and documentation of initial employment of its graduates (*Section VII (B)(4) & Appendix VII, Substantive Standards of Accreditation*). Specifically, in its July 1, 2025 Probation Response, the school only supplied employment information for graduates hired by ACAST as flight instructors upon graduation. The school did not, in its probation response, demonstrate any graduate that was able to obtain employment outside of the institution. Additionally, ACAST did not demonstrate that the school meets the waiver criteria to hire graduates as instructors. Further, ACAST did not demonstrate that the school has appropriately rigorous hiring criteria, appropriately supervised faculty, that faculty engage in comprehensive faculty development and improvement activities or that the school uses formative and summative performance evaluation processes for faculty. As the graduates hired as faculty members at the institution were unable to meet the necessary criteria, the school did not demonstrate that the employment of these graduates was in-field and that those graduates were appropriately categorized as employed in field for the school's student achievement rates.

During the Commission's ongoing review of below-benchmark graduation rates, and students' inability to progress through the program. In response, ACAST admits that the current admissions criteria are not sufficient to predict student success, as follows: "ACAST recognizes that while its current FAA-aligned admissions criteria establish a baseline for eligibility, they are not sufficient on their own to predict student success in a rigorous flight training environment" (*Id.*, pg. 104). The school described ACAST's diligent efforts to research "alternative enhancements," (*Id.*, pg. 105) but that no new criteria have been designed or updates implemented.

Overall, the Commission found that the school has not made fundamental changes to ensure that students are successful in achieving the educational and vocational outcomes of the program. ACAST has neither demonstrated that the school's programs consistently maintain rates of graduation or employment that minimally meet ACCSC benchmark rates nor provided other reliable indicators of successful student learning along with a demonstration that external or mitigating factors reasonably related to student achievement are adversely impacting the school's ability to meet those established benchmark rates.

4. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school's student assessment approaches are implemented in a valid, reliable, fair, and where relevant, flexible manner (*Section VII (A)(2)(b), Substantive Standards,*

¹¹ The May 8, 2025 Probation also questioned the school's ability to support student achievement rates through verifiable records, whether the school has admissions criteria that are designed to admit only those students who are reasonably capable of successfully completing and benefiting from the training offered, and a disclosure of the student achievement rates.

Standards of Accreditation). Specifically, ACAST admits in its July 1, 2025 Probation Response, that the school’s faculty are not adequately trained in the various assessment areas required and the inexperienced instructors struggle to adequately utilize objective and subjective measures of assessing student performance. In regard to the school’s policies and procedures for when a student needs three attempts to pass a check ride and remedial training, the school stated:

Unfortunately, instructors in general are not adequately trained in these areas, and inexperienced instructors in particular often struggle to make the correct observation of what is going wrong until well into the course. This is an industry wide problem which will only get better when instructor training standards are improved which is a very different challenge! (Id., pg. 87).

The school also noted that matching the personalities of the instructor and student can create a challenge in assessment and that students are unable to identify if they are able to receive effective training. The ACAST response failed to show that student assessment is valid, reliable, or fair for students. In addition, the statement about inexperienced/untrained instructors implies that the management team has accepted this situation as beyond the school’s control. The response does not show that the school has implemented any changes to hiring practices or to provide training to ensure that instructors have appropriate qualifications and are able to teach in a manner that permits announced educational objectives to be achieved.

5. ACAST did not demonstrate that the school discloses the graduation rate, graduate employment rate, and as applicable licensure certification examination pass rate for each program offered as last reported to the Commission and that the disclosure for each program’s graduation rate, graduation employment rate, and licensure/certification examination pass rate includes the program population base and timeframe upon which each rate is based (*Section IV (C)(3), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). Previously, ACAST was found to be disclosing incorrect information regarding student achievement. With the July 1, 2025 response, the school indicated it removed the disclosures from the website entirely stating that “[e]ffective 2025, ACAST has removed all graduation, employment, and licensure rates from public view on our website” (*Id.*, pg. 138). The response states this decision was made after extensive internal review and based on the concerns about risk of misrepresentation, lack of alignment between reporting systems, and commitment to accurate and compliant disclosure.

The school stated that “ACAST has decided to disclose these rates only upon direct request to prospective students or stakeholders, where full explanation and context (including timeframes, populations, and methodology) can be provided directly and transparently” (*Id.*, pg. 137). However, the Commission emphasized in its May 8, 2025 Probation that public disclosure of student achievement rates is a mandatory requirement—not optional. Limiting access to this information by providing it only upon request does not satisfy the standard. Moreover, ACAST’s response did not explain how prospective students would be informed that such data is available upon request, nor did it include documentation of the information that would be provided if a request were made. As such, the Commission determined that the school did not demonstrate the ability to comply with a basic accreditation requirement and to ensure that prospective students receive the school conveys accurate information to prospective students so that they may make a well-informed decision about whether to enroll at the school.

6. ACAST failed to demonstrate that the school uses an enrollment agreement that includes, at a minimum, all required items listed on the ACCSC Enrollment Agreement Checklist and that clearly states the obligations of both the student and school (*Section IV (C)(2)(a), Substantive Standards,*

Standards of Accreditation).¹² Although ACAST submitted an enrollment agreement, this agreement appears to omit three required items including: procedures for students requesting cancellation, information on where to find the school's processes that protect student privacy, and the title of the accepting school official. The enrollment agreement requires fundamental disclosures and is a basic requirement for accreditation. As such, ACAST has failed to demonstrate compliance with this basic requirement and has failed to demonstrate that the school ensures students are receiving the information required to make a well-informed decision about enrolling in the school.

Timeframe to Achieve Compliance

Given the scope and range of the concerns cited in the May 8, 2025 Probation, coupled with the fact that the school is already more than 12 months beyond its next accreditation date (February 2024), the maximum timeframe the Commission established for ACAST to achieve and demonstrate compliance with the *Standards of Accreditation* was to end March 19, 2026. The Probation notified ACAST that the Commission is not required to allow the maximum timeframe and that the Commission could take immediate adverse action at its next meeting if the school failed to demonstrate significant improvement in its compliance with the accrediting standards cited in the Probation (*Section VII (L)(5), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*). Although the maximum timeframe has not yet been reached, the Commission determined that waiting until March of 2026 is not warranted at this juncture due to the overall lack of progress towards demonstrating compliance with standards; the school's failure to demonstrate that it is meeting obligations to students; the number of opportunities the school has already been afforded; and because the school's leadership team has yet to achieve stability and to show an ability or willingness to make requisite changes to its operations as a means to achieve compliance with accrediting standards.

Teach-Out Plan and Teach-Out Agreement

The Commission directs the school to provide an [Institutional Teach-out Plan Approval Form](#), which must be submitted in conjunction with the notice provided to students as listed below (*Section IV (F)(2)(b) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). ACAST must demonstrate how it will ensure the opportunity for students to complete their program of study either by ACAST or through an agreement with another accredited institution(s) approved to offer a program comparative to ACAST's. If ACAST intends for another institution to complete the training of the students, then the school must submit the [Institutional Teach-Out Agreement Approval Form](#). The teach-out plan/agreement must contemplate the loss of accreditation and concordant loss of state or federal funding. The school's Institutional Teach-Out Plan and if practicable and necessary the Institutional Teach-out Agreement Approval Form should be submitted **on or before October 13, 2025**.

Notification to Students:

Within **seven days** of receipt of the Withdrawal of Accreditation, the school must:

- a. Inform current and prospective students in writing of the withdrawal of accreditation decision and indicate where that action can be obtained from the Commission's website;
- b. If the school chooses to appeal a withdrawal of accreditation decision, then the school must inform current and prospective students of the appeal and that the school is on Probation during the appeal process; and

¹² The enrollment agreement submitted with the response is not cross-referenced to the Enrollment Agreement Checklist, which is a basic requirement for demonstrating compliance with accrediting standards.

- c. Once a decision to withdraw accreditation is final, then the school must within seven days inform current and prospective students that the withdrawal of accreditation action is final. A school must delete all references to and claims of ACCSC accreditation from the school's website, catalog, enrollment agreement, advertising, and promotional materials immediately after withdrawal of accreditation.

The school must upload a copy of the notice provided to students to ACCSC's College 360 Database no later than October 13, 2025.

Appeal and Reapplication Process and Procedure

ACAST 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 ACAST 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 \$8,000.00, **on or before October 13, 2025**.
- If ACAST 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 3, 2025**.
- If ACAST elects not to appeal this decision, the Commission's decision will become effective on **October 13, 2025**. The school may submit comments **on or before October 13, 2025** 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 (Q)(7) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the school may reapply no sooner than nine months from the date on which the withdrawal of accreditation becomes effective.

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

[REDACTED]

S
[REDACTED]

Executive Director

c: [REDACTED]

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



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

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPEAL A COMMISSION DECISION

To Be Submitted No Later Than October 13, 2025

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 Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology located in Fort Pierce, Florida, intends to appeal the recent decision of the Commission to withdraw the schools' accreditation and remove the schools from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$8,000 and a copy of the notification provided to students as required by accreditation procedures. I understand that the appeal fee is non-refundable.

I understand that an ACCSC Sitting 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 Procedure* 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 a school to appeal an adverse accreditation decision taken by the Commission on the grounds that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise in 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, except as allowed for under *Section VIII (C)(2)(c), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

I understand that 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 Panel with the reasons and cause why I believe that 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* along with the school's Grounds for Appeal are due to ACCSC **on or before November 3, 2025**, 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

ACCSC Standing Appeals Panel Members

Panel Member	Affiliation	Term Ending
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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PUBLIC COMMENT DISCLOSURE FORM

To Be Submitted No Later Than October 13, 2025

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

RE: Aviator College of Aeronautical Science & Technology
 3800 St. Lucie Blvd.
 Fort Pierce, Florida 34946

I understand and agree that the Commission, pursuant to *Section X (C)(4) & (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, will make public 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 the school’s public comments on the adverse accreditation action that are to be disseminated with the public notice of the Commission’s adverse accreditation decision including, but not limited to, dissemination to appropriate federal, state and other accrediting agencies and posting to the ACCSC website (*Section X (C)(4) & (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 school’s public comments must be in summary format, professional in tone, and free of profanity and calumnious statements and limited to two typed pages. 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 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 the comments are not submitted in the required format **on or before October 13, 2025**.

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

Signature

Date

Name/Title