



Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

ACCREDITING DECISIONS OF OTHER AGENCIES

- Policy Statement -

Concerning the accrediting decisions of other agencies, the Commission on Colleges observes the following practices:

1. If the Commission on Colleges is notified by another recognized accrediting agency that an applicant or candidate institution (i.e., an institution seeking initial membership with the Commission) is the subject of pending or final action to deny, suspend, revoke, withdraw or terminate candidacy, the Commission will take such action into account in its own review if it is determined that the other agency's action resulted from a deficiency which reflects a lack of compliance with the Core Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* of the College Commission which, in turn, could call to question the institution's continuing candidacy status or any future recognition with the Commission on Colleges.
2. If the Commission is notified by another recognized accrediting agency that a member (accredited) institution is the subject of pending or final action to deny, suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate accreditation, or has been placed on a publicly announced probationary status by such an accrediting agency, the Commission will review in a timely manner its own status of recognition of that institution to determine if the other agency's action resulted from a deficiency which reflects a lack of compliance with the Commission on Colleges' *Principles of Accreditation* which, in turn, could call into question the institution's continuing status of recognition with the Commission on Colleges.
3. If the Commission is notified by a state agency that an applicant, candidate or member institution is the subject of pending or final action to deny, suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education, the Commission will review in a timely manner its own status or recognition of that institution to determine compliance with the standard and the *Principles of Accreditation* which, in turn, could affect the continuing status of recognition with the Commission on Colleges.
4. If the Commission continues the accreditation or candidate status of an institution placed on probation or denied or dropped from accredited or candidate status by a recognized accrediting agency or a state agency, or of an institution suspended, revoked, withdrawn, or terminated by a state agency of its legal authority to provide postsecondary education, the Commission will provide to the U.S. Secretary of Education a thorough explanation for its decision and why the previous action by a recognized accrediting or state agency does not preclude the Commission's continued accreditation or candidacy. This explanation will be submitted within 30 days of Commission action.

The Commission on Colleges relies on state agencies and the other recognized accrediting bodies to inform the Commission of adverse actions described in items 1-4 above so that the Commission can react responsibly and in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR 602.28 to promptly review the accreditation or candidacy of an institution to determine whether the Commission should also take adverse action or place the institution on public sanction. In addition, the Commission requires candidate and member institutions holding accredited or candidacy (pre-accredited) status from more than one USDE recognized institutional accrediting body to keep each institutional accrediting body apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting body.

Institutional Responsibility

Any institution seeking or holding accreditation from more than one U.S. Department of Education recognized institutional accrediting body must describe itself in identical terms to each recognized institutional accrediting body with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents, and must keep each institutional accrediting body apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting body.

*Approved: Executive Council, April 1990
Edited in accord with the Principles: June 2003*