

## **Extensions for Good Cause Policy**

### **Scope of This Policy**

Certain actions taken by the Commission pertaining to compliance requirements must include a time limit, typically two years or less, during which time the COM must demonstrate compliance. In keeping with federal criteria (34 C.F.R. § 602.18(d)), the COCA may, for good cause, extend the stipulated time. This policy describes when and how an extension may be provided.

### **Circumstances Related to a Good Cause Extension**

When the final decision by the Commission determines that any standard or core element does not comply with COCA's requirements, this is communicated in writing to the COM together with the required actions and the specified time for the COM to demonstrate compliance. The date of the Commission's action begins the calculation of that time period.

Should the Commission determine a significant number of areas of noncompliance, it may award the status of Accreditation with Warning, Accreditation with Probation, or Accreditation with Show Cause, which awards are considered sanctions. When a sanction is imposed, the Commission may not continue the institution under the same or a new sanction beyond the maximum timeframe unless the institution presents evidence that there is good cause to provide further time for corrective measures and the Commission determines that the evidence supports an extension of time.

### **Criteria for a Good Cause Extension**

Extensions for good cause are made in the COCA's sole discretion according to the following criteria:

- The COM has demonstrated significant progress towards resolving its non-compliance issues
- The COM has provided written and compelling evidence describing its plans to achieve compliance within the period of extension
- The COM has provided written and compelling evidence that the nature of the change that must be made, such as facilities construction or renovation or fundraising for scholarships, reasonably requires a period exceeding 24 months;
- The COM has provided documentation of the need for actions by groups external to the medical education program, such as decisions requiring actions by a university or legislative bodies.

The Commission may also take into account changes in the leadership of the COM, such as the chief executive officer or the dean/CAO, if a change is germane to the issues leading to the original compliance concern.

The Commission may, in its sole discretion, extend the period to permit a COM to achieve compliance for good cause up to 12 months beyond the standard two-year period to achieve compliance. In its communication with a COM, the Commission will specify the reason(s) for granting an extension for good cause and the period within which the COM must achieve compliance with the cited standard(s). The Commission may also specify monitoring activities during the period of extension to ensure that corrective actions are being accomplished in a timely manner.

Related Federal Requirements:

34 C.F.R. § 602.20