



Notifications to USDE Policy

Scope of This Policy

This policy specifies the COCA's requirements for submitting information about its accreditation activities to the U.S. Department of Education.

Required Submissions

The COCA will submit the following to the USDE on an annual basis:

- A list of the programs for which the COCA has awarded Pre-Accreditation or Accreditation status.
- A summary of the COCA's major accrediting activities during the previous year, including the award of initial and continuing Candidate status; the award of initial and continuing Pre-Accreditation status; and the award of initial and continuing Accreditation status.
- A decision by the COCA to expand its scope of recognition to include distance education or correspondence education as provided in section 496(a)(4)(B)(i)(I) of the HEA
- The name of any COM that is institutionally accredited by the COCA that the COCA has reason to believe is failing to meet its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities or is engaged in fraud or abuse, along with the COCA's reasons for concern about the institution or program.
- Any final changes to its accreditation standards, or to the COCA's compliance with the Department's criteria for, or scope of, recognition
- For any COMs for which the COCA is the Title IV gatekeeper, student performance related to its Cohort Default Rate as reported by the Department

The COCA will notify the Department within 30 days of the following:

- Any COM that voluntarily withdraws its accreditation or allows it to lapse
- A final decision of warning, probation, or equivalent status of an institution or program; or a final decision to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate Candidate status, Pre-Accreditation status, or Accreditation status of an institution or program.

Ordinarily, the COCA will copy the affected COM on any correspondence with the USDE as described in this section. The need for confidentiality of that contact based on the circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case review by the Department. Upon request by the USDE, the COCA must consider that contact confidential.

The COM may also, upon receipt of such notice, require that certain personal or proprietary information be redacted from the documentation forwarded by COCA to the Department.

Related Federal Requirements:

34 C.F.R. § 602.27(a)(1-5), (5,6), (b)