



Respect for Actions of Other Agencies

Scope of This Policy

As an accrediting agency with jurisdiction shared by other accrediting and licensing entities, the COCA is required by federal policy to collaborate with these entities toward common goals.

Respect for Actions of Other Entities

The COCA will not grant initial or renewed accreditation or pre-accreditation to a DO program offered by an institution if the COCA knows, or has reasonable cause to know, that the institution is the subject of:

- (1) A pending or final action brought by a State agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the State;
- (2) A decision by another recognized agency to deny accreditation or pre-accreditation;
- (3) A pending or final action brought by a recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or pre-accreditation; or
- (4) Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency.

If the COCA grants pre-accreditation or accreditation to a program within an institution subject to an above-listed action, it will communicate the basis for this action, consistent with COCA standards, to the Secretary of the USDE within 30 days of its action.

If the COCA learns through required reporting that the institution in which it accredits or pre-accredits a DO program has been subject to an adverse action, including probation, by the institution's accreditor, the COCA will immediately initiate a review of the program to determine whether any comparable action should be taken by the COCA. In the event of a probation decision by another agency, the COCA will determine whether to grant or continue pre-accreditation or accreditation based on a review to determine if the areas cited as the reasons for the probation action by the institutional accreditation agency or state chartering authority represent non-compliance with one or more COCA accreditation standards.

Should the COCA take an adverse action on a COM, and upon request by another recognized accreditor, the COCA will share with that agency the information that served as the basis for its action.

Reporting to Other Agencies

If a COM is required to submit a teach-out plan for a DO program within an institution accredited by another agency, and that plan has been reviewed and approved by the Commission, the approval of the plan will be communicated to the other agency.

The COCA will submit required notifications to the Secretary of the USDE, the relevant state medical licensing boards, the relevant institutional accreditation bodies, and the public about actions taken at a COCA meeting affecting the accreditation status of a

COM within 30 days of the meeting, including the decision to award initial accreditation or renew a COM's accreditation status.

For actions subject to a request for reconsideration, appeal, or initial arbitration, the COCA will notify the Secretary of the USDE, the relevant state medical licensing boards, and the relevant institutional accrediting bodies when a final action has been determined and at the same time that it notifies the COM, but no later than 30 days after the final decision.

All accreditation decisions will be conveyed to the public by posting the accreditation action on the COCA website's link to the COM within 24 hours of notifying the COM.

In decisions to deny or withdraw pre-accreditation or accreditation, the COCA will provide the Secretary of Education, the relevant state medical licensing boards, the relevant institutional accrediting bodies, and the public with a summary of the facts of its review no later than sixty (60) days after the decision is finalized. The statement will include any comments made by the program or with a statement that the program has been offered the opportunity to comment. The COCA website will also reflect that the program has been offered the opportunity to provide comments.

If an accredited program withdraws its accreditation status voluntarily or otherwise allows its accreditation status to lapse, the COCA staff will inform the Secretary of the Education, the relevant institutional accrediting bodies, and the relevant state licensing agencies within 30 days of the withdrawal or lapse date.

Reporting to the Public

The accreditation information posted on the COCA's website that is available to the general public includes the current accreditation status of an accredited program and the date and type of its next accreditation visit, if it has been set. The COCA website does not include site visit team reports, correspondence with or documentation submitted by a program in connection with its accreditation status, nor the basis for COCA's actions regarding a program's accreditation status.

If a school publicly discloses its accreditation status, the COM must disclose the status accurately. Any incorrect or misleading statements made by a COM about the COCA's accreditation actions or the COM's accreditation status must be corrected immediately. Failure to promptly correct or clarify the information may result in reconsideration of the COM's accreditation status. The public information must also include the COCA's contact information so that the information can be verified.

Related Federal Requirements:

34 C.F.R. § 602.28(a) to (e)

34 C.F.R. § 602.24(c)(4)