

Calculation of Next Accreditation Action

(February 12, 2015)

These procedures are established to describe the process for calculating the date of the next accreditation action in response to federal and or other external agencies requesting an expiration date or date for end of accreditation. Because accreditation does not expire unless it is withdrawn, the Commission has developed an explanation to guide staff and institutions in responding to such inquiries. These are guidelines and the Commission reserves the right to modify the review schedule based on an institution's specific circumstances.

The year in which an institution's next accreditation event is expected to occur can be found in the Detail View of the Institution Directory and on the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS). Both of these are available on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education website, http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp. The Commission provides the following formula to determine the date of an institution's next accreditation action. The most recent Commission action is:

1. **Reaffirmation via Self Study (with or without follow-up).** The institution was last reaffirmed via Self Study and the next reaffirmation review of accreditation is expected to occur via Periodic Review Report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1 of the fifth year from the end of the academic year in which the institution was reviewed. For example, the institution's accreditation was reaffirmed via Self-Study Review in 2009. The next review is expected to occur via Periodic Review Report in 2014. The Commission will take action in November of that same year. Because reaffirmation is not guaranteed and these dates may be different for each institution, the last day of November of the fifth year (2014) can be used for this purpose.
2. **Reaffirmation via Periodic Review (with or without follow-up).** The institution was last reaffirmed via Periodic Review and the next reaffirmation review of accreditation is expected to occur via Self Study Review. The Self Study report and visit is expected to occur during the fifth academic year following the Periodic Review. For example, the institution's accreditation was reaffirmed via Periodic Review in 2009. The next review is expected to occur via Self Study Review in 2013-2014. If the Self Study Evaluation team visit occurs in the spring semester (2014), the Commission would take action in June of that same year. In this case, the last day of June of the fifth year is considered to be the expiration date. Occasionally, at the institution's discretion, the Self Study Evaluation team visit occurs during the fall semester (2013). In this case, the Commission would take action in November of that same year; therefore, the last day of November of the fourth year (2013) can be used for this purpose.

In rare cases, an institution may be granted a one year extension to complete the Self Study Review, and the action would occur in June of the sixth year.

3. **Noncompliance (Warning, Probation or Show Cause).** If the institution is found to be noncompliant (Warning, Probation or Show Cause) at any point within the five year cycle, the institution is required to submit a monitoring report, host an on-site visit, and the Commission will act in accordance with the schedule set by the non-compliance action. The institution remains accredited while on Warning, Probation or Show Cause. This action and reporting date can be found on the institution's SAS and Public Disclosure Statement, available on the MSCHE website.
http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp.
4. **Other Actions (Withdrawal, Denial, Closure, Merger, Postponed, Appeal).** In these cases, the Commission will determine the date the institution's accreditation ends. The withdrawal or denial of accreditation may be appealed. The institution remains accredited during the period of the appeal.

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