



Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Notification of Accreditation Decisions

(Version 062614)

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is committed to transparency and notifies its member institutions, the U.S. Department of Education, other accrediting agencies, and appropriate state or other governmental authorities in accordance with this policy.

Notification to Institutions

The Commission sends letters of notification regarding any Commission action to the institution within 10 business days following each Commission meeting, Executive Committee meeting, or other decision making meeting at which an accreditation action is taken. Substantive Change actions are taken by the Executive Committee and notification to institutions occurs within 10 business days following the decision.

All actions are included in the Commission's internal Institutional History and included in the Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) for a period of five years. A Public Disclosure Statement also is developed for actions of non-compliance with Commission Requirements of Affiliation or Standards. The Public Disclosure Statement, along with the SAS, is displayed until Reaffirmation of Accreditation is achieved.

External Notification

Grant Accreditation (initial) or Reaffirm Accreditation

The Commission provides written notice of all decisions to grant accreditation, reaffirm accreditation, or approve substantive change, or other actions not listed in the next section, within 30 business days of the Commission's decision to:

- The U.S. Department of Education
- The appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency
- The appropriate accrediting agencies
- The public

The Commission disseminates a Summary of Commission Actions, listing all accreditation actions for a given meeting, within 30 business days following each Commission meeting. The letter, addressed to the U.S. Department of Education, also is copied to each state licensing or authorizing agency in the Middle States region and to regional and specialized accrediting agencies.

Final Decisions on Probation, Denial, or Withdrawal

The Commission simultaneously provides written notice of final decisions (probation and final decisions to deny or withdraw candidacy or accreditation) but no later than 30 days after the Commission meeting, to:

- The institution
- The U.S. Secretary of Education
- The appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency
- The appropriate accrediting agencies

The institution is provided a complete action letter, and the other groups are informed of the action by special letter.

Public Notification

The Commission provides notice to the public of all Commission actions within 30 days of the Commission meeting except as noted below. Notice is provided on the MSCHE website under a listing of Accreditation Actions, in the Statement of Accreditation Status, and in the case of non-compliance, in the Public Disclosure Statement (PDS). Although required by federal regulation to be posted within 30 days, under normal circumstances the SAS is typically available within 14 days of each Commission meeting.

The Commission informs the public of all final Commission actions (probation and final decisions to deny or withdraw candidacy or accreditation). Within 24 hours of informing the institution, the Commission will make the SAS and an accompanying Public Disclosure Statement available on its website.

The Statement of Accreditation Status

The Commission maintains an official public statement for each candidate or accredited institution that includes the institution's current status and recent accreditation history. This document, the Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS), is created dynamically from the Commission's database based on Commission action and information provided by the institution through annual reporting. The SAS is updated automatically as information is entered into the Commission's database.

The SAS provides information to interested members of the public who wish to have more detailed background about an institution than that which is available from the Commission's institutional directory. The first section of the SAS contains information based on self-reported data provided annually by the institution on its Institutional Profile. The second section of the SAS presents a brief history of the institution's relationship with the Commission and indicates the ways in which the Commission may monitor the institution in

Policy: Notification of Accreditation Decisions

the future. The Commission shares the SAS with the general public after the institution has been given notice regarding the action from the Commission.

Public Disclosure Statement

For Commission actions pertaining to non-compliance by an institution, such as to place an institution on warning or probation, show cause, denial, or withdrawal, the Commission will develop a Public Disclosure Statement (PDS) about the action for use in responding to public inquiries. The PDS will include a brief description of the institution and the degree levels that have been approved by the Commission, the institution's current accreditation status, a summary of recent Commission actions pertaining to the institution and why the Commission took such actions including the standards that are not met, and the expected next steps for the institution to follow in order to return to compliance. These next steps will include due dates for required monitoring reports or other documents to be submitted to the Commission and a description of other planned Commission activities, including, but not limited to, small team visits to the institution, review by Commission committees, and other steps as deemed necessary by the Commission.

The institution is invited to submit an official statement. The statement may be linked to the PDS from the institution's website, or the Commission may include a web reference to the institution's website at the Commission's discretion.

Except as otherwise noted in this policy, in accordance with federal regulation, the Commission makes the Public Disclosure Statement and any official institutional comments available to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, and the public, no later than 60 days after the decision. The PDS serves as the required brief statement summarizing the reasons for the agency's decision.

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