



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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Policy Statement

Policy for the Consideration of Actions Taken by Regional, National, and Specialized Accrediting Associations

Regional, National, and Specialized Accrediting Associations each have a role in quality assurance at institutions of higher education. Because the focus of each agency may be somewhat different, and in compliance with §602.28 of the regulations implementing the 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act, the Commission on Higher Education considers the actions taken by other accrediting agencies and takes action as appropriate. The Commission also disseminates to other accrediting agencies the actions taken following each meeting at which accrediting actions are taken by the Commission.

The Commission disseminates its actions via electronic mail, U.S. Post, and via the Commission's website. The Commission also regularly receives a summary of accreditation actions taken by other agencies through info@msche.org and/or by U.S. Post.

The Commission utilizes the following procedures for the review and action regarding accrediting actions taken by other accreditors.

1. The Executive Assistant to the President reviews the summary of accreditation actions taken by other accreditors to see if any MSCHE member institution has a negative action taken against it.
2. If no negative actions are taken against a member institution, the Summary of Accreditation Actions is filed in the appropriate accrediting association's file.
3. If the action is a pending or final action by a USED-recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or candidacy, or the institution is placed on Probation or an equivalent status imposed by such agency, the Executive Assistant to the President will forward a copy of the notice to the Senior Vice President and to the MSCHE staff liaison to the institution for further review and action. A copy of the disclosure statement also is placed in the institution's file.
 - a. Commission staff will then send a formal inquiry to the institution requesting a Supplemental Information Report to be submitted to the Commission no later than 30 days following the date of inquiry. The report should include a copy of the other accreditor's findings and reason for action.

- b. The Supplemental Information Report will be forwarded to the Committee on Follow-Up or to the Executive Committee, depending on the timing of the report, for further review of the violation of the other agency's standards and whether that violation signals a potential violation of any of the MSCHE Requirements of Affiliation or Standards for Accreditation.
- c. If the Supplemental Information Report is submitted to the Committee on Follow-Up, the Committee will conduct a review in its usual manner and make a recommendation to the full Commission for further action, which might include an additional report and/or a small team visit to the institution to assess its compliance with MSCHE Standards of Accreditation.
- d. If the Supplemental Information Report is submitted to the Executive Committee, staff will assign a Commissioner or Executive Committee member to serve as a reviewer and to make a recommendation regarding next steps in lieu of the Committee on Follow-Up. Following deliberation, the Executive Committee may take action or refer the recommendation to the full Commission depending on the timing of submission.

If the Commission determines that the institution no longer meets the requirements of affiliation or its ability to meet the standards is sufficiently in question, a wide range of actions may be taken against the institution. To view the range of possible Commission actions on accreditation, please visit: http://www.msche.org/documents/P7A-2_RangeofActions091611.pdf.