

Policy on Relations with Federal, State, and Other Accrediting Agencies

January 2022

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges maintains a working relationship with the U.S. Department of Education (ED), state and other governmental agencies, and institutional, specialized and/or programmatic accreditors recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This relationship is guided by federal regulations and anti-trust laws in regards to sharing information and considering other agency decisions. While the Commission's *Policy on Public Disclosure and Confidentiality in the Accreditation Process* specifically addresses the timely notification of information on its accrediting decisions with other entities¹, this policy focuses on the consideration of actions taken by other federal, state, and ED recognized accrediting agencies².

The Commission routinely receives information from governmental agencies and other accrediting agencies. Upon receipt of information regarding adverse actions, or probation, or an equivalent status, against a member institution by a federal, state, or another ED recognized accrediting agency, Commission staff will review the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution and seek further information from the agency involved to determine whether a review of the accredited status of the institution will be required.³

Generally, the Commission will not grant Eligibility, Candidacy (Preaccreditation), Initial Accreditation, or Reaffirm the accreditation of any institution during a period that the institution is the subject of⁴:

- 1) A pending or final action brought by a governmental agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide a postsecondary education;
- 2) A decision by another ED recognized agency to deny accreditation or preaccreditation;
- 3) A pending or final action by an ED recognized accrediting agency leading to the suspension, revocation, withdrawal or termination of the institution's accreditation or preaccreditation; or
- 4) Probation or equivalent status by an ED recognized agency.

In its review, however, if the Commission makes an exception and grants accreditation or preaccreditation notwithstanding these actions, the Commission will provide to the U.S. Secretary within 30 days of its action a thorough and reasonable explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the action of the other entity does not preclude ACCJC's grant of accreditation or preaccreditation.⁵

¹ § 602.26; 602.28(e)

² § 602.28(b)(c)(d)

³ § 602.28(d)

⁴ § 602.28(b)

⁵ § 602.28(c)

Adopted January 1998; Revised June 1998; Edited June 2002; Revised October 2013; Revised January 2022

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