

NWCCU POLICIES | COMMISSION ACTION REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE WITHIN SPECIFIED PERIOD

If the Commission's review of an institution determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that must not exceed:

1. Twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution is less than one year in length;
2. Eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or
3. Two years, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least two years in length.

If the institution does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency will take immediate adverse action unless the Commission, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

Extension for Good Cause

At any time during the period of non-compliance, the Commission may, at its discretion, continue the institution's non-compliance status and extend accreditation for good cause beyond the original period. The Commission may extend accreditation for good cause only once and for a maximum of twelve months. At the conclusion of the extension, the Commission must act to reaffirm accreditation, require the institution to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn, or withdraw accreditation provided the institution has been given the opportunity to show cause.

Extensions for good cause are made at the sole discretion of the Commission. Typical criteria may include:

1. The institution has, during the period of non-compliance, demonstrated significant progress towards the resolution of its non-compliance issues (for example, an institution addressing non-compliance on multiple standards has achieved reaffirmation on the majority of those standards); or
2. The institution has, during the period of non-compliance, demonstrated to the Commission's satisfaction the potential to remedy its accreditation-relevant deficiencies within the period of extension (for example, an institution has initiated new data-collection procedures and will be able to demonstrate the application of relevant findings during its subsequent budgeting cycle); or
3. The institution has provided written and compelling evidence describing reasonable plans to meet the Commission's expectations for reaffirmation within the period of extension (for example, an institution has documented its commitment of financial and human resources to resolve all remaining non-compliance issues within the period of extension).

In all cases where the Commission decides to extend the time given an institution, the Commission's action must establish an expected completion date. The notation of the extension and the completion date will be identified in the Commission's action letter. A Commission decision to extend the time permitted must weigh the consequences for students and the public of such an extension.

Adopted 1997, Revised 2002, Revised 2018