

POLICY #4

TYPES OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

ON APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION

A nursing program is considered for initial or continuing accreditation by the ACEN Board of Commissioners when it demonstrates compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

INITIAL ACCREDITATION

Granted

Initial accreditation of a nursing program is granted when the program demonstrates compliance with all Accreditation Standards. Next review shall be in five (5) years.

Note: Initial accreditation is effective as of the accreditation cycle in which the Board of Commissioners grants initial accreditation. ***Accreditation is not retroactive for students who graduated prior to the semester/quarter/term in which the initial accreditation site visit occurred.***

Denied

Initial accreditation of a nursing program is denied when a program does not demonstrate compliance with all Accreditation Standards. This is an appealable action.

The nursing program may restart the candidacy process at any time after the denial of initial accreditation.

CONTINUING ACCREDITATION

Granted

The maximum amount of time between continuing accreditation cycles shall be eight (8) years.

1. Continuing accreditation is granted when the nursing program is in compliance with all Accreditation Standards.
2. Continuing accreditation with conditions is granted when the nursing program is found to be in non-compliance with one (1) or two (2) Accreditation Standards. Next review and follow-up action(s) are determined by the Board of Commissioners.
3. Continuing accreditation with warning is granted when the nursing program is found to be in non-compliance with three (3) or more Accreditation Standards. Next review and follow-up action(s) are determined by the Board of Commissioners.
4. Continuing accreditation with a removal of conditions is granted when the nursing program is found to be in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

5. Continuing accreditation with a removal of warning is granted when the nursing program is found to be in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.
6. Continuing accreditation with a removal of warning for good cause is granted when the nursing program is found to be in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

Denied

Continuing accreditation is denied when a nursing program on conditions, warning, or warning for good cause is reviewed and found to be in continued non-compliance with any Accreditation Standard. Thereafter the nursing program is removed from the listings of accredited programs. This is an appealable action.

The nursing program may start the candidacy process at any time after the denial of continuing accreditation and removal from the list of accredited programs.

ACCREDITATION WITH CONDITIONS OR WARNING STATUS

1. A nursing program is placed on continuing accreditation with conditions when the program has been found to be in non-compliance with one (1) or two (2) Accreditation Standards.
 - a. When a nursing program has been placed on continuing accreditation with conditions, the program must submit a Follow-Up Report addressing the Standard(s) with which the nursing program was found to be in non-compliance; a follow-up visit may be required within a specified period of time. The Follow-Up Report, or Follow-Up Report and Follow-Up Site Visit Report, and Evaluation Review Panel Summary will constitute the basis for Commission action. The Commission may accept the Report if the nursing program is in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards or not accept the Report if the program remains in non-compliance. Nursing programs demonstrating compliance will be granted continuing accreditation. Nursing programs not in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards will be (1) placed on continuing accreditation with warning for good cause, or (2) denied continuing accreditation and the nursing program is removed from the listings of accredited programs.
2. A nursing program is placed on continuing accreditation with warning when the program has been found to be in non-compliance with three (3) or more Accreditation Standards.
 - a. When a nursing program has been placed on continuing accreditation with warning, the program must submit a Follow-Up Report addressing the Standard(s) with which the nursing program was found to be in non-compliance, and a follow-up visit is required within a specified period of time. The Follow-Up Report, Follow-Up Site Visit Report, and Evaluation Review Panel Summary will constitute the basis for the Commission action. The Commission may accept the Report if the nursing program is in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards or not accept the Report if the program remains in non-compliance. Nursing programs in compliance will be granted continuing accreditation. Nursing programs not in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards will be (1) continued on continuing accreditation with warning for good cause, or (2) denied continuing accreditation and the nursing program is removed from the listings of accredited programs.

3. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning for clinical doctorate, master's, baccalaureate, associate, and diploma programs is two (2) years from the Commission's determination of this accreditation status.
4. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning for practical nursing programs is 18 months from the Commission's determination of this accreditation status.
5. If a nursing program has not remedied deficiencies at the conclusion of its maximum monitoring period, the Commission must (1) deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs, or (2) grant continuing accreditation for good cause. If accreditation is extended for good cause, the nursing program must be granted continuing accreditation with warning for good cause.
 - a. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with warning for good cause for clinical doctorate, master's, baccalaureate, associate, and diploma programs is two (2) years from the Commission's determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the accreditation standards is not demonstrated within two (2) years, the Commission must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
 - b. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with warning for good cause for practical nursing programs is 18 months from the Commission's determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within 18 months, the Commission must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
6. A nursing program's accreditation can be extended for good cause if the program satisfies all of the following principles:
 - a. The nursing program has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance;
 - b. The nursing program has documented that it has the potential to remedy all deficiencies within the extended period as defined by the Commission; that is, that the program provides evidence which makes it reasonable for the Commission to determine it will remedy all deficiencies within the extended time defined by the Commission;
 - c. The nursing program provides assurance to the Commission that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the nursing program could not be continued for good cause.
7. The nursing program has the responsibility for making its case for good cause. To demonstrate good cause, the chief executive officer of the governing organization and the nurse administrator of the nursing program must submit a report attesting that the program satisfies all three (3) principles for good cause. The report must be received by the ACEN Chief Executive Officer no later than 14 calendar days before the Board of Commissioners meeting. Along with the good cause report, the nursing program may submit selected new, updated information and evidence (e.g., faculty profile table, verification of faculty credentials, and performance on licensure examination) that

demonstrate the program has made significant recent accomplishments in addressing the Standard(s) found to be in non-compliance.

Policy #4 History
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