

Public Access to the Commission Policy

The Commission values the transparency, accountability, and trust that are promoted through public access to Commission issues and actions, and has established various mechanisms for engaging with institutional members and the public. These include sharing policy proposals to gather perspectives before they are finalized, organizing meetings on specific topics and informal feedback sessions, providing information on the website and at the annual conference, reviewing comments submitted by the membership and public, holding public meetings or hearings, and ensuring accessibility of records of Commission actions.

Comments on Institutions Scheduled for Review

The Commission reviews institutions for initial and continued accreditation. Comments from individuals or organizations can be submitted for consideration by the peer review team and the Commission. Comments need to arrive in advance of an institution's scheduled review to assure fair consideration. The WSCUC website contains a list of upcoming institutional reviews, the deadlines for submitting comments, and describes the process for submitting such comments.

Public Sessions

Public Meetings

The Commission disseminates information regarding its activities and the work of its committees during public meetings. In addition, public meetings serve as forums for adopting Commission standards and policies related to institutions. Before final adoption, any Commission standard or policy relating to institutions is generally circulated to institutions for their input and feedback. Institutions are notified of regular Commission meetings at least 30 days in advance, and provided the agenda for the public meeting.

Public Hearings

On occasion, public hearings are organized to gather comments and presentations from institutional representatives or institutional representatives and the public, regarding policy matters or proposals for new standards, policies, or procedures. In the event a public meeting, or a portion of it, is held as a public hearing, the Commission may establish specific procedures and time limits for comments made by institutional representatives to the Commission.

Business Meetings and Executive Sessions

Business meetings and executive sessions are restricted to Commissioners and staff or just Commissioners.

Business Meetings

During business meetings, the Commission:

1. Takes institutional accrediting actions.
2. Assesses the consistency of Commission actions and the application of Commission standards and policies to individual institutions or types of institutions.
3. Discusses the need for standards or policies arising from specific institutional accrediting actions.
4. Conducts other business as appropriate.

Executive Sessions

During executive sessions, the Commission:

1. Reviews personnel issues.
2. Reviews legal matters.
3. Discusses confidential or sensitive information.

Minutes

Actions taken during public sessions are recorded in the minutes and, upon approval by the Commission at a subsequent meeting, made accessible to any interested party. Institutions are notified of actions taken during business meetings of the Commission, and those actions are also posted on the WSCUC website and distributed to other entities, as required by federal regulations. For further details, please refer to the Public Disclosure of Accreditation Documents and Commission Actions Policy.

Bringing Matters to the Attention of the Commission

Those with an interest in bringing a specific topic or suggestion to the attention of WSCUC or the Commission are invited to use the Contact Form on the WSCUC website.