

# Sharing Information with Other Agencies and Regard for their Decisions Policy

The Commission routinely shares information with other accrediting agencies, state agencies, the United States Department of Education (ED), and other international agencies with jurisdiction over the institution, about the accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy (pre-accreditation) status of an institution or program and any negative and adverse actions it has taken against an accredited or pre-accredited institution or program.

Following Commission meetings and Commission actions, the Commission distributes to ED, appropriate state higher education agencies, and other accrediting agencies, a list of actions taken on the accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy status of institutions, noting all non-compliance actions and those monitoring actions that are public.

In general, the Commission will not grant eligibility, candidacy, initial or renewed accreditation to an institution if WSCUC knows, or has reasonable cause to know, that the institution is the subject of:

1. A pending or final action brought by a state or other government agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education.
2. A decision by another ED recognized agency to deny accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy.
3. A pending or final action brought by another ED recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation, eligibility, or candidacy.
4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by an ED recognized agency.

However, if upon review, the Commission acts to make an exception to any of the above and acts to grant candidacy or accreditation, it will provide to the Secretary, within 30 days of its action, a thorough and reasonable explanation, consistent with its Standards, why the action of the other body does not preclude the institution being granted accreditation or candidacy by WSCUC.

## Consideration of Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies

1. If the Commission is notified by another recognized accrediting agency or its international equivalent that an applicant or candidate institution has had its status of recognition denied, revoked, or terminated, the Commission will carefully weigh this action in making its own decision to grant eligibility or candidacy.
2. If the Commission is notified by another recognized accrediting agency or its international equivalent that an institution that is a candidate for WSCUC accreditation or is accredited by WSCUC has had its status of accreditation or recognition revoked, suspended or terminated, or has been placed on probation, the Commission will promptly review the other agency's action to determine whether it reflects a lack of compliance with WSCUC Standards of Accreditation or

policies. If so, the Commission will determine if the institution's status with the Commission needs to be reviewed or if any follow-up action is needed.

3. If the Commission is notified by a state or federal agency or its international equivalent that an applicant, candidate, or accredited institution has been informed of suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education or is otherwise the subject of a negative or adverse action, the Commission will review its own status of recognition for that institution to determine compliance with the Standards of Accreditation and policies. If the Commission finds the institution is no longer in compliance, the Commission will determine the appropriate action to be taken.

## **Consideration of Actions of Federal or State Agencies or International Equivalents**

Nothing in this policy precludes consideration of investigations or relevant actions taken by any state or federal agency, court, grand jury, or law enforcement agency or international equivalent, however it may come to the attention of WSCUC. The Commission will carefully weigh such investigations or actions in making its own determination of the appropriate next steps.

## **Institutional Responsibility**

It is the obligation of applicant, candidate, and accredited institutions to inform WSCUC of negative and adverse actions, in alignment with CFR 1.8. In implementing this policy, the Commission relies on other accrediting bodies, federal and state agencies, and their international equivalents to also inform the Commission of negative and adverse actions so the Commission can undertake the review specified in this policy. Applicants for eligibility with the Commission shall provide information on any actions by a recognized accrediting body, state or federal agency within the past five years. In addition, the Commission requires candidate and accredited institutions holding accredited or candidate status from more than one ED recognized institutional accrediting body to describe itself in identical terms to each recognized institutional accrediting body with regard to purpose, governance programs degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances and constituents and must keep each institutional accrediting body informed of any change in its status with any other accrediting body.

---

*Revised by the Commission, February 2019*

*Revised, June 2021*

*Revised, February 2023*