

The AWARE Webinar Will Begin Momentarily

- Have questions? Submit them via the survey monkey link provided on the Memo-to-the-Field document.
- Have a copy of the Memo at-hand, an electronic version of which can be found on our web site, under the Council Action tab.





ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

AWARE Webinar

May 23, 2017
12:30-2:00pm EST

ACICS Webinar Announcing, **Relating & Explaining**
The May 2017 Memorandum to the Field



Today's Presenters

- **Perlter Walters-Gilliam**, Vice President – Accreditation
- **Karly Zeigler**, Manager, Institutional Compliance

WELCOME!



Agenda

- **Topic I: *Proposed Criteria Revisions & Changes***
- **Topic II: *For Information Only***
- **Questions and Comments**





ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

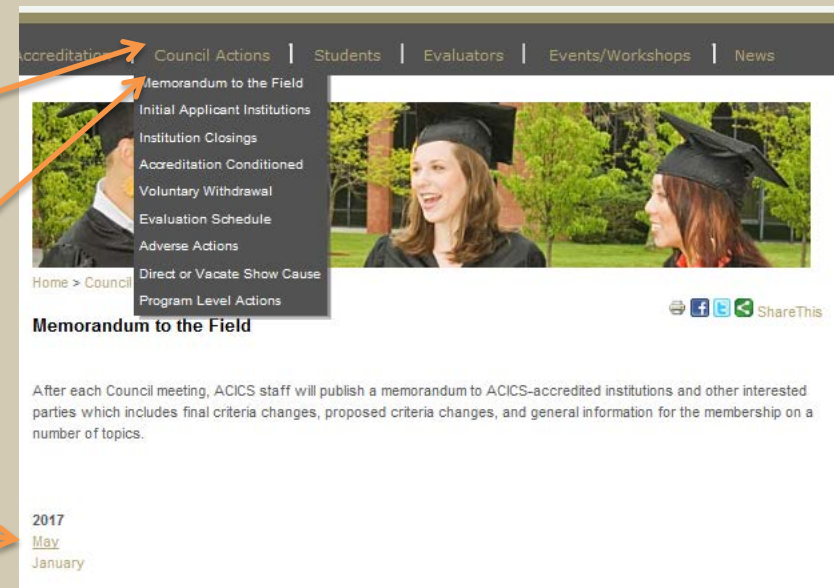
Available at www.ACICS.org

To view the Memo:

> Council Actions

>> Memorandum to the Field

>>> May 2017



TOPIC I:
**PROPOSED CRITERIA
REVISIONS & CHANGES**



Proposed Criteria Changes & Revisions

- **Intent to Bar/Debarment Appeal**
- **Review Board Members and Expenses of an Appeal**
- **Institutional Grant Length**
- **Unannounced Visit Fees**
- **Council Hearing Procedures**
- **Revision of Title – Change of Ownership/Control Action**



Proposed Criteria Changes & Revisions

- **Institutional Show-Cause Directives**
- **Revocation Actions**
- **Student Achievement Procedures**
- **Initiation of Distance Education**
- **Denial Actions Not Affecting Overall Accreditation**
- **Substantive and Non-Substantive Changes**
- **Renewal of Accreditation Application Submission**



Proposed Criteria Changes & Revisions

- **Advertising – Third Party Services**
- **Criterion Description - Integrity**
- **“Centrally Controlled Institutions” and “Distributed Enterprise”**



Intent to Bar/Debarment Appeal

Section 2-3-900

The Council proposes to clarify the language surrounding the debarment appeal process. The current language on debarment could be interpreted that an individual or entity may also elect to appeal the debarment action, after an appeal of the intent. The revised language intends to remove this possible interpretation.

Key component:

- The revised language clarifies the procedure that individuals or entities may only appeal the intent to bar.



Review Board Members and Expenses of an Appeal

Sections 2-3-602 and 2-3-608, and Appendix A, Bylaws, Article VII

The Council proposes to clarify language regarding the Review Board of Appeals. The proposed language indicates that a panel of three persons will be selected from a pool of 15 members of the Review Board of Appeals. The order of the types of members has also been reorganized for consistency. In addition, the proposed language clarifies the remittance of a standard hearing fee.

Key components:

- The Review Board consists of 15 members, a panel of which would be selected to consider each case.
- A standard fee will be remitted for the hearing.



Institutional Grant Length

Section 2-1-701 & Section 2-1-702

The Council proposes to reinstitute the determination of grant length at the institutional, rather than at the campus level. That is, the institution (main and its branches) will be awarded a grant of accreditation given that a branch does not hold an accredited status; rather, it is approved within the accredited status of the main campus.

Key components:

- The Council maintains the discretion on the grant length awarded.
- The proposed change would eliminate the ability to award a grant length to a branch campus independently of its main.



Unannounced Visit Fees

Section 2-1-405 and Appendix B

The Council proposes that the Criteria related to charges for unannounced visits be consistent with fees assessed for scheduled visits.

Key components:

- Unannounced visits will be assessed a flat visit fee.
- Failure to pay the fee would be subject to adverse action.



Council Hearing Procedures

Sections 2-3-230, 2-3-500, 2-3-501, and 2-3-502

At its December 2016 meeting, the Council moved to require all show-cause hearings to be in writing unless an in-person hearing is directed by the Council.

Key components:

- The notation “in-writing hearing” is being revised to an “institutional review” and “hearings” reserved for in-person appearances before the Council.
- For institutional reviews, the submission of documentation and fee would replace a notification of the institution’s acceptance.
- Revisions are being considered to the procedures for when the Council requires a hearing in person.



Revision of Title – Change of Ownership/Control Action

Section 2-3-302

The Council proposes a revision to the title of the criterion to better reflect its content.

Key component:

- The title clarifies the denial of reinstatement of accreditation after change of ownership or control, rather than a denial of the change of ownership/control itself.



Institutional Show-Cause and Withdrawal of Approval

Sections 2-3-230, 2-3-231, 2-3-400, 2-3-401, 2-3-402, and 2-3-403

The Council proposes to clarify language regarding a show-cause directive on a branch campus.

Key component:

- A show-cause action may result in the withdrawal of approval of a branch campus or the withdrawal of accreditation of the institution.



Revocation for Failure to Respond to Show-Cause Directive

Sections 2-3-400 and 2-3-401

The Council proposes an additional reason for the revocation action.

Key components:

- A revocation action, which is not appealable, can be taken when an institution fails respond to a show-cause directive.
- Withdrawal actions – revocation and suspension – can be taken at the campus and institution levels.



Student Achievement Procedures

Sections 2-1-809 and 2-2-502 & Appendix L

The Council proposes changes in the Criteria to reflect revisions and clarity in the application of standards and guidelines regarding student achievement.

Key components:

- Clearly outlined expectations with each student achievement action.
- Two sections of the Criteria related to Student Achievement have been revised to remove redundant language.
- A revision to procedural guarantees for withdrawals by suspension to include language for what is now an institutional review.



Initiation of Distance Education

Section 2-2-106

The Council seeks to clarify the language regarding the approval needed to initiate distance education or other new instructional delivery methods.

Key component:

- An institution would be able to directly offer a new online course or program once they have submitted and received approval of a distance education application without having to first have approval of the program residually.



Denial Actions not Affecting Overall Accreditation

Section 2-3-303

The Council proposes a revision to the language that clarifies the institution's right to object to other denial actions of requested substantive changes.

Key component:

- Institution can present its case for reconsideration if an application for a new program or any substantive change is denied.



Substantive and Non-Substantive Changes

Sections 2-2-101, 2-2-109, 2-2-121, and 2-2-151

The Council proposes to recognize that a 25 percent decrease to a program's clock or credit hours is also a substantive change. The revised wording would include a 25 percent or greater change (to include increase and decrease).

Key components:

- Campuses must notify ACICS of non-substantive changes prior to implementation.
- ACICS must be notified when a change has not been implemented within a year.



Renewal of Accreditation

Application Submission

Section 2-1-300 and 2-1-301

The Council proposes to allow campuses to submit all renewal applications and fees three months before the start of the campus's assigned review cycle rather than September 30th prior to the renewal year.

Key components:

- Information submitted closer to the visit would give ACICS a more accurate picture of the campus.
- Once self-study materials are submitted, substantive changes would not be allowed before the visit.



Advertising – Third Party Services

Appendix C – Institutional Publications Requirements

The Council proposes to eliminate one element of Appendix C referencing disclosure of third party services for advertising.

Key component:

- Catalog and/or other advertising materials no longer have to include services by third parties.



Criterion Description - Integrity

Section 3-1-202

The Council proposes to revise the language for the criterion regarding integrity of an institution to include capability of management since the subsections include the assessment of both the integrity and capability of the institution's administration.

Key component:

- Criterion title includes the evaluation of institutional capability in addition to integrity.



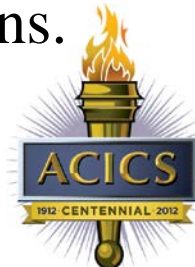
“Centrally Controlled Institutions” and “Distributed Enterprise”

Sections 1-3-200, 1-3-203, 2-1-100, 2-1-301, 2-1-402, 2-1-503, 2-1-601, 2-1-801, 2-1-802, 2-2-203, 3-1-202, and Glossary

The Council proposes to remove all references to “Centrally Controlled Institutions” and “Distributed Enterprises” given that ACICS is no longer pursuing the recognition of this type of entity.

Key component:

- The deletion of all references of these terms will provide clarity and consistency related to classifications of institutions.



TOPIC II: FOR INFORMATION ONLY



For Information Only

- **Moratorium on Doctoral Degrees**
- **Automated Withdrawal of Aged Applications**
- **Placement Verification Program (PVP)**
- **The Quarterly Accountability Report**
- **Annual Meeting**
- **Information Webinar**



Moratorium on Doctoral Programs

At the April 2017 meeting, the Council voted unanimously that, effective April 4, 2017, the moratorium approved by the Council on December 5, 2016, is now permanent and ACICS will no longer accept applications for doctoral programs.

All current institutions with existing doctoral programs have until December 31, 2019, to:

- 1) teach-out their currently enrolled doctoral students in an orderly manner; or
- 2) move from ACICS to another institutional accrediting agency.

Institutions will be required to prominently post and distribute notice to current and prospective students to advise them of this course of action, with a credible plan and path to completion for all enrollees going forward. If any of these conditions are not satisfied, the institution will be subject to an adverse action.



Automated Withdrawal of Aged Application

- A large of number of applications are still pending, requiring additional information or response from the campus subsequent to the initial submission for approval.
- The Council has concluded that the documents in such applications to be outdated and unusable for consideration.
- Any applications submitted prior to May 1, 2016, that have had no activity from the institution within the past year, will be **marked for withdrawal.**



ACICS PLACEMENT VERIFICATION PROGRAM (PVP) UPDATE

- Campuses are now able to contest placements that ACICS has marked as INVALID, via the system.
- Contested decisions MUST INCLUDE supporting documentation for consideration.
- A placement may only be contested once and the decision of the review panel is **final**.
- Instruction on contesting the placements can be found on the PVP web site.



The Quarterly Accountability Report

- Beginning with the first quarter of the 2018 reporting period, all campuses will be required to submit a quarterly accountability report.
- The report will be due four months following the conclusion of the quarter. That is, July – September 2017 (due February 1, 2018); October – December 2017 (due May 1, 2018); January – March 2017 (due August 1, 2018); and April – June 2018 (due November 1, 2018).



ACICS Annual Business Meeting

- Facilitated via webinar on June 21, 2017, from 1pm – 3pm EDST.
- This is a members-only session and invitations will be sent under separate email.
- Reports will be given by the Interim President, Council Chair, and Treasurer.



Informational Webinar – 2017 CAR, 2018 Quarterly Reports, PVP

- Facilitated via webinar on May 25, 2017, from 3:30pm – 5pm EDST.
- Invitation has been sent out and representation from each campus is highly recommended.
- Guidance on completing the reports will be provided.



Question & Answer



Feedback/Participation from the Field



Your feedback on the proposed changes are critical to the Council's consideration and should be provided no later than **Friday, June 30, 2017**, via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WEBQA>

