



ENFORCEMENT OF THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION (Postsecondary Institutions)

When the Commission determines that an institution is out of compliance with one or more of the Standards for Accreditation and/or their Indicators of Quality, Standards for Student and Organizational Performance, and/or other accreditation requirements, the Commission shall either:

- a. Immediately initiate an adverse action against the institution, or
- b. Require the institution or program to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the Commission’s standards within a time period that must not exceed—

Time Limit	Length of Program
Up to two years	Greater than two years
Up to 18 months	Between one and two years
Up to 12 months	One year or less

- 1) Time limits begin on the date of the Commission's accreditation action (not the Visiting Team's visit).
- 2) The Commission may, at its discretion, require an institution to report on progress sooner than the maximum time allowed, and may, for good cause, extend the time for demonstrating compliance.

If the institution does not bring itself into compliance within the time period specified, the Commission may either:

- a. Immediately initiate an adverse action against the institution, or
- b. For good cause, extend the period of time for bringing itself into compliance. Good cause includes the following events/circumstances:
 - 1) Demonstration and documentation of good faith efforts to remedy existing deficiencies with a reasonable expectation that deficiencies will be remedied within the period of the extension;
 - 2) A physical catastrophe such as a hurricane, earthquake, or tornado that requires the institution to cease functioning for a period of time that would preclude an on-site accreditation visit prior to the date the institution’s term of accreditation will expire;
 - 3) An interruption in the institution’s functioning and delivery of its educational program that is beyond the control of the institution, such as governmental coups, wars, and insurrections; and
 - 4) A labor action that causes members of the institution’s staff to withhold services and, as a result, prevent them from performing their expected roles in a self-study and accreditation process and visit.
- c. An extension to the time in which the institution must come into compliance shall not exceed 12 months, and no additional extensions will be granted. (See MSA-CESS Policy: Extension of Accreditation Term)
- d. An extension to the time in which the institution must come into compliance with the Standards may be granted only one time during the institution’s term of accreditation. (See MSA-CESS Policy: Extension of Accreditation Term)

Monitoring During the Period of Extension.

- a. During the period of extension, the institution will submit a monthly report documenting the progress being made toward bringing the institution into compliance with the Standards for Accreditation and/or

their Indicators of Quality and/or Standards for Student and Organizational Performance and/or other accreditation requirements. (See MSA-CESS Policy: Extension of Accreditation Term)

- b. Failure to provide the monthly reports will result in the immediate termination of the term of extension, at which time the institution must provide evidence that it is in compliance with the Standards.
- c. If the institution is unable to provide acceptable evidence that it is in compliance with the Standards, the Commission shall immediately initiate an adverse action against the institution.

Failure to Come Into Compliance. If the institution does not bring itself into compliance within the original time period specified or by the end of an extension to that time, if granted, the Commission shall:

- a. Immediately initiate an adverse action against the institution, either Removal of Accreditation or return to Denial of Accreditation;
- b. Notify the institution of its right to request consideration of or to appeal the adverse action; (MSA-CESS Policy: Appeals from Adverse Accrediting Actions)
- c. Make the notifications regarding the adverse action as required in MSA-CESS Policy: Notices and Communications Regarding Accreditation Actions, Activities, and Members.