

POLICY #4
TYPES OF COMMISSION ACTIONS
ON APPLICATIONS FOR INITIAL AND CONTINUING 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

The Board of Commissioners may grant initial accreditation or deny initial accreditation.

Granted

Initial accreditation of a nursing program is granted when the Board of Commissioners determines a 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 the Board of Commissioners determines a program does not demonstrate compliance with all Accreditation Standards. This Denial of initial accreditation is an appealable action.

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

CONTINUING ACCREDITATION

The Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation or deny continuing accreditation.

Granted

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

1. Continuing accreditation is granted when the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is in compliance with all Accreditation Standards.

2. Continuing accreditation with conditions is granted when the **Board of Commissioners determines** a 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 **Board of Commissioners determines** a 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 **Board of Commissioners determines** a nursing program is **found to be** in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.
5. Continuing accreditation with a removal of warning is granted when the **Board of Commissioners determines** a nursing program is **found to be** in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.
6. Continuing accreditation with a removal of good cause is granted when the **Board of Commissioners determines** a nursing program is **found to be** in compliance with the Accreditation Standards.
7. **Continuing accreditation for good cause – see below.**

Denied

~~Continuing accreditation is denied when a nursing program on conditions, warning, or 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.~~

A nursing program seeking continuing accreditation may be denied continuing accreditation. A nursing program denied continuing accreditation will be removed from the list of accredited programs. Denial of continuing accreditation 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.

CONTINUING 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 for good cause, or (2) denied continuing accreditation and the nursing program is removed from the listings of accredited programs.

Continuing Accreditation with Conditions

1. When the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is non-compliant with one (1) or two (2) Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners will grant a nursing program continuing accreditation with conditions for up to the maximum monitoring period for the program type.
 - a. When a nursing program has been granted 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 constitute a basis for the Board of Commissioners' decision.

The length of the monitoring period defines the Board of Commissioners' action the next time a nursing program is reviewed. At the next review,

- b. If the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with a removal of conditions.
- c. If the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is non-compliant:
 - i. With one (1) or two (2) Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with conditions if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
 - ii. With three (3) or more Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with warning if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
 - iii. With any Accreditation Standard, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation for good cause if the maximum monitoring period

- for continuing accreditation has concluded and the program meets the requirements for good cause.
- iv. With any Accreditation Standard, the Board of Commissioners may deny continuing accreditation and remove the program from the list of accredited programs, whether the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has or has not concluded.

Continuing Accreditation with Warning

1. 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.

1. 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) granted continuing accreditation for good cause, or (2) denied continuing accreditation and the nursing program is removed from the listings of accredited programs.

1. When the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is non-compliant with three (3) or more Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners will grant a nursing program continuing accreditation with warning for up to the maximum monitoring period for the program type.
 - a. When a nursing program has been granted 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 constitute a basis for the Board of Commissioners' decision.

The length of the monitoring period defines the Board of Commissioners' action the next time a nursing program is reviewed. At the next review,

- b. If the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is in compliance with the identified Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with a removal of warning.
- c. If the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program is non-compliant:

- i. With one (1) or two (2) Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with conditions if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
- ii. With three (3) or more Accreditation Standards, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with warning if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
- iii. With any Accreditation Standard, the Board of Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation for good cause if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has concluded and the program meets the requirements for good cause.
- iv. With any Accreditation Standard, the Board of Commissioners may deny continuing accreditation and remove the program from the list of accredited programs, whether the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has or has not concluded.

Maximum Monitoring Period – Conditions and Warning

1. 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 Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status.
2. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning for practical nursing programs is 18 months from the Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status.
3. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning for standalone certificate nursing programs that are not a practical nursing program is determined by the length of the certificate nursing program.
 - a. If the shortest period of time that in which a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is less than 12 months or less length shorter, then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning is 12 months from the Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the accreditation standards is not demonstrated within 12 months, the Commission must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
 - b. If the shortest period of time that in which a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is at least one (1) year but less shorter than two (2) years, then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning is 18 months from the Board of Commissioners' 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.~~

- c. If the shortest period of time ~~that in which~~ a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is at least two (2) years, ~~in length~~ then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning is two (2) years from the Board of Commissioners' 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.~~

Maximum Monitoring Period – Good Cause

1. If the Board of Commissioners determines a nursing program has not remedied deficiencies at the conclusion of its maximum monitoring period on continuing accreditation with conditions or continuing accreditation with warning, the Board of Commissioners must (1) deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs, or (2) grant continuing accreditation for good cause.
 - a. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause for clinical doctorate, master's, baccalaureate, associate, and diploma programs is two (2) years from the Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the accreditation standards is not demonstrated within two (2) years, the Board of Commissioners must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
 - b. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause for practical nursing programs is 18 months from the Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within 18 months, the Board of Commissioners must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
 - c. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause for standalone certificate nursing programs that are not a practical nursing program is determined by the length of the certificate nursing program.
 - i. If the shortest period of time ~~that in which~~ a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is 12 months or ~~less length shorter~~, then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause is 12 months from the Board of Commissioners' determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within 12 months, the Board of Commissioners must deny

- continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
- ii. If the shortest period of time **that in which** a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is at least one (1) year but **less shorter** than two (2) years, then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause is 18 months from the **Board of Commissioners'** determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within 18 months, the **Board of Commissioners** must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.
 - iii. If the shortest period of time **that during which** a student could complete a standalone certificate nursing program is at least two (2) years, **in length** then the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation for good cause is two (2) years from the **Board of Commissioners'** determination of this accreditation status. If compliance with all the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within two (2) years, the **Board of Commissioners** must deny continuing accreditation and remove the nursing program from the list of accredited programs.

Good Cause

1. **The Board of Commissioners can extend** a nursing program's **continuing accreditation can be extended** for good cause if the **Board of Commissioners determines 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 **Board of Commissioners** to determine it will remedy all deficiencies within the extended time defined by the Commission;
 - c. The nursing program provides assurance to the **Board of Commissioners** that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the **accreditation of the** nursing program could not be continued for good cause.
2. 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) with which the program was found to be in non-compliance.

Policy #4 History
Revised July 2015
Revised July 2017
October 2017
_____ 2018