

Probationary Accreditation Timeline Implementation Policy

Probationary accreditation is a category of accreditation and may be granted when an already accredited school or program is judged deficient in resources and procedures to continue to accomplish its stated mission and objectives, or fails to meet the requirements for its reaccreditation review or interim report requirements.

Probationary accreditation is conferred for a specific length of time but may not exceed three years in total. The three-year period includes up to two years in which the school or program must come into compliance with the accreditation criteria and, if it fails to do so, up to an additional year to remedy the deficiencies if the school or program shows good cause. (*Accreditation Procedures*)

After a probationary accreditation decision has been made, the school or program must undergo a new (full or abbreviated) self-study assessment, host a team of external reviewers and receive a determination from the Council that accreditation is revoked, returned to regular status or extended for one additional year for good cause.

Activities must occur within the following timeline. This timeline provides date ranges, indicating the maximum time available for each step in the process.

- Time 0 – probationary accreditation determined
- 3-16 months – preliminary self-study (or abbreviated self-study) due
- 6-20 months – final self-study (or abbreviated self-study) due
- 7-21 months – site visit takes place
- 10-24 months – Council makes decision to revoke accreditation, return the school or program to regular accredited status or extend probationary accreditation for one additional year for good cause

In some cases, the school or program on probation may undergo an abbreviated review that focuses on a narrowly defined set of issues identified by CEPH. While the school or program must meet all of the accreditation criteria, the self-study process may be directed at those issues identified as particularly problematic. When the CEPH governing body authorizes an abbreviated review, it will specify the scope of the review and may specify the composition of the site visit team, the duration of the visit or other modifications.

Within 30 days after a final accreditation decision, the Council formally notifies agencies about the action. These include, at a minimum, the USDE, other recognized accrediting agencies, and state higher-education licensing or authorizing agencies. Decisions to be reported to these bodies include placing an institution on probation.

If a final decision is to deny or revoke accreditation status or to place a school or program on probation, the notice to the USDE, other recognized accrediting agencies, and state higher-education licensing or authorizing agencies will occur at the same time that CEPH notifies the school or program.

CEPH will notify the public of its final decision to deny or revoke accreditation or to confer probationary accreditation within 24 hours of its final notification to the school or program. Adverse actions become final 30 days after the school or program has been notified of its opportunity to appeal the decision or at the conclusion of the appeal, whichever occurs first. (*Accreditation Procedures*)

CEPH's Appeal Procedures can be found in the *Accreditation Procedures*. The Staff Responsibilities During Appeals Proceedings document is available on the [CEPH website](#) or upon request from the CEPH office.

Council on Education for Public Health
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