

Public Notice: Notice of Reason for Denial or Revocation of Accreditation and Complaints Against Accreditation Site Visitor(s)

The *Accreditation Operating Procedures* (AOP) outline training requirements for doctoral, doctoral internship, and postdoctoral residency programs to be accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Correspondent to the SoA are the Implementing Regulations (IRs), which are official policy documents that “elucidate, interpret and operationally define” the APA Commission on Accreditation’s (CoA) policies and procedures. IRs are divided into several different sections (A through E), which are subject to regular review and revision by the CoA. Through this iterative process, opportunities for clarification have arisen regarding a Section of the AOP as well as an IR in Section D, which relates specifically to the AOP.

IR D.8-4 focuses on the CoA’s procedure for noticing programs of their reason for denial or revocation of accreditation. To maintain compliance with US Department of Education regulations (34 CFR 602.26), the CoA has clarified that it requires programs to disclose CoA decisions of denial of accreditation and revocation of accreditation to current and prospective students within seven days of receipt of the final decision.

In accordance with the APA “Policies for Accreditation Governance” and the US Department of Education regulations for notice and comment, the CoA is providing additional information and is making the changes available for a thirty (30) day period of public notice starting on May 26, 2022. On behalf of the CoA, thank you in advance for your review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

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D.8-4. Procedure for Notice of Reasons for Denial or Revocation of Accreditation or Denial of a Site Visit by the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA)

(Commission on Accreditation, July 1995; revised October 2004, July 2009, July 2010, [revised for public notice, April 2022](#))

Section 602.26 (~~d~~e) of the criteria for recognition of the CoA's accrediting activities by the U.S. Secretary of Education states the following:

“For any decision listed in paragraph ~~(b)~~(2c) of this section, [i.e., a final decision to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution or program], [the accrediting agency] [requires the institution or program to disclose the decision to current and prospective students within seven days of receipt and](#) makes available to the Secretary, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, and the public, no later than 60 days after the decision, a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the agency's decision and the comments, if any, that the affected institution or program may make with regard to that decision.”

This implementation procedure outlines the steps that will be taken by the CoA, consistent with the Secretary's requirements and with Section 8 (Confidentiality and Public Disclosure of Information) of the CoA's *Accreditation Operating Procedures*.

1. A decision to deny or revoke accreditation or deny a site visit (applicant programs only) is considered final if a formal letter of appeal is not received within the 30-day period following receipt of written notification of the CoA's decision, or if the CoA's decision is upheld by an appeal panel. As required by the U.S. Secretary of Education's criteria for recognition, the Secretary and any other appropriate accrediting agencies are notified at this time, usually by a letter to the Secretary with copies to the other entities and to the program.
2. [The required disclosure to current and prospective students within seven days following receipt of the final decision letter that denies or revokes accreditation is included in the correspondence sent to the program, as required by Section 602.26 \(e\).](#)
3. In addition, once a decision to deny/revoke accreditation or deny a site visit is final, a statement to the U.S. Secretary of Education and such other appropriate agencies as required by the Secretary will be drafted, stating the basis of such decision in terms of the domains cited by the CoA and upheld on appeal (if a hearing was conducted). The statement will be forwarded to the program for comment. The program will have 30 days to review the statement and provide written comments to the statement. Representatives of the program will provide signatures to their comments.
The original statement and any program comments will be distributed as required in the recognition criteria (i.e., to the U.S. Secretary of Education and the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agencies, and to the public). The statement and comments will be distributed no later than 60 days after the CoA's decision becomes final.
4. In the event that the program does not reply to the request for comment on the statement within the 30-day time period, the statement will be distributed as required, without including comments by the program.