

*Replaces pg. 54 in the Handbook*

## **CRITERIA FOR EXTENSION OF A SANCTION FOR GOOD CAUSE**

Under United States Department of Education (USDE) regulations, when the Commission finds that an institution fails to meet one or more Standard, it is required to notify the institution and give the institution up to two years from the date of its action to correct the situation. If an institution has not remedied the deficiencies at the conclusion of the two-year period on sanction, the Commission is required under USDE regulations to take an “adverse action,” defined in law as the termination of accreditation. Thus, all institutions must address the areas cited by the Commission expeditiously, with seriousness and the full attention of the institution’s leadership. It is the responsibility of the Commission to determine at the end of the period given the institution to correct the problems cited, whether the institution has corrected the situation(s) and come into compliance with Commission standards.

Federal law permits an extension of this two-year time frame when “good cause” is found. The Commission has determined it will grant an extension for good cause only under exceptional circumstances and only when the following criteria are met:

1. The institution must have demonstrated significant accomplishments in the period under sanction in addressing the areas of non-compliance, AND
2. The institution must have demonstrated at least partial compliance with the Standard(s) cited, and, for any remaining deficiencies, demonstrate an understanding of those deficiencies, as well as a readiness, institutional capacity, and plan to remedy those deficiencies within the period of extension granted by the Commission.

In determining whether these criteria have been met, the Commission will also consider the following issues:

3. The quality of education provided by the institution is judged to be in substantial compliance with Commission standards at the time of the extension, AND
4. The Commission has no evidence of any new or continuing violations of Standard One regarding Institutional Integrity, AND
5. There is no evidence of other reasons, or current circumstances, why the institution should not be continued for “good cause.”

The Commission may extend accreditation for “good cause” for a twelve, eighteen, or twenty-four month period, depending on the seriousness of the issues involved and its judgment of how much additional time is appropriate. By the conclusion of the extended period identified by the Commission, the institution must prepare a report detailing its progress on the cited deficiencies and its compliance with those Standards cited by the Commission. Demonstrated compliance with Commission Standards is required, supported by verifiable evidence; progress or promises of future action are not sufficient.