

I.7 Accreditation statuses

The statuses of ALA accreditation are:

Precandidacy (See section I.8)	<p>Precandidacy status indicates the institution's and program's commitment to achieving ALA accreditation. Precandidacy also provides the program and the COA with a means to communicate formally about programmatic development. Programs with Precandidacy status do not appear in the directory of ALA-accredited programs.</p> <p>Reporting requirements: annual narrative progress report, annual statistical report</p> <p>Length of status: three years; a program may remain in Precandidacy up to three years. At the end of three years, the COA may grant a one-time extension of up to three years</p>
Candidacy (See section I.9)	<p>Candidacy status indicates that the program is ready to begin the two-year process that culminates in the Self-Study, comprehensive review of the program, and the COA's accreditation decision. Programs with Candidacy status do not appear in the directory of ALA-accredited programs.</p> <p>Reporting requirements: annual narrative progress report, annual statistical report</p> <p>Length of status: two years; a one-year extension before the comprehensive review is possible pending the approval of the COA</p>
Initial accreditation (See section I.11)	<p>Initial accreditation status indicates that a program has been accredited by the ALA following a period of candidacy status and comprehensive review. Initial accreditation applies retroactively for students who complete degree requirements within the 24 months prior to the date that Initial accreditation is granted.</p> <p>Reporting requirements: biennial narrative report (every other year), annual statistical report</p> <p>Length of status: seven years (or three years if a progress review is scheduled when Initial accreditation is granted)</p>
Continued accreditation (See section I.12)	<p>Continued accreditation status is granted to an accredited program that continues to demonstrate compliance with the Standards.</p> <p>Reporting requirements: biennial narrative report (every other year), annual statistical report</p> <p>Length of status: seven years</p>
Conditional accreditation (See section I.13)	<p>This status is assigned to a program that must make changes to comply with the <i>Standards</i> to enable accreditation beyond the date specified by the COA. Programs with Conditional accreditation</p>

status remain accredited and are listed in the directory of ALA-accredited programs. This status may be conferred following the comprehensive review or following issuance of a Notice of Concern.

Reporting requirements: plan for removal of conditional status (year one), annual narrative progress report, annual statistical report

Length of status: three years

Withdrawn, Appeal

Pending

(See sections I.14 and IV)

This status is assigned to a program that has had its accreditation withdrawn by the COA and has filed an appeal. See section IV for information on the appeal process. A program with this status is listed in the directory of ALA-accredited programs with the status, "Withdrawn, Appeal Pending." While the appeal is in process, the program retains Conditional status with regard to student status and program reporting requirements.

Reporting requirements: annual statistical report (if report due date is while appeal is in process)

Length of status: until final determination of appeal

Withdrawn accreditation

(See section I.14)

This category is assigned to a program that, effective on the date specified, is no longer accredited by the ALA. A program with this status is not listed in the directory of ALA-accredited programs.

Reporting requirements: N/A

Length of status: permanent

The Directory of ALA-Accredited Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies lists all programs with Initial; Continued; Conditional; or Withdrawn, Appeal Pending status. The status of each program is clearly noted. Programs with Withdrawn accreditation status are listed only in the Historical List of Accredited Programs. A current directory is available on the Office for Accreditation website.

I.7.1 Disclosure of accreditation status

As a public protection, including for prospective students, any reference to ALA accreditation status or display of the ALA Accredited logo must include the specific status as granted by COA: Candidacy; Conditional; Continued; Initial; Precandidacy; Withdrawn, Appeal Pending; or Withdrawn. See the specific status section for the required statement. Any program found to be misrepresenting its accredited status through public statements or in documents will be notified by the ALA Office for Accreditation to take immediate corrective action. Failure to correct misrepresentation of the accreditation status can lead to adverse action.