I. Overview

I.7.8 Conditional Accreditation

Conditional accreditation status indicates a need for significant and immediate action for improvement to maintain conformity with the requirements of the standards. This status is listed in both the print and electronic directories of accredited programs. The COA must place a program on conditional accreditation before it can withdraw accreditation from the program. A decision to conditionally accredit a program requires a two-thirds affirmative vote.

In its Decision Document, the COA identifies the sections of the standards with which the program failed to conform, schedules either a comprehensive review or a progress review. Either review will occur three (3) years after the program is placed on conditional status. Then, the COA requests a meeting with the Dean and institutional representatives to discuss the program’s plans to remove the conditional status.

A conditionally accredited program must submit annual progress reports to the COA. The program should use the ERP report, the COA Decision Document, and previous correspondence from the Committee to identify the specific areas and issues of concern that will serve as a basis for the development of a plan to achieve compliance with the standards.

At the end of the conditional accreditation period and following the review of the program, the COA makes one of the following accreditation decisions: 1) release the program from conditional status and grant continued accreditation, or 2) withdraw accreditation. Removal of conditional status is an accreditation decision. As such, this decision requires a two-thirds affirmative vote and is determined during a regularly scheduled meeting of the COA.