

I.15 Accreditation decisions

Accreditation decisions are made at the COA's regularly scheduled meetings. The decision about a particular program is made at the COA meeting held at the ALA Midwinter Meeting or the ALA Annual Conference directly following the conclusion of the comprehensive visit of the program. Accreditation decisions are based on the Self-Study, the report of the ERP, the optional program response to the ERP Report, a meeting with the Program Head and the Chair, and a review of correspondence regarding regularly submitted biennial narrative and statistical reports as well as required special reports submitted since the last comprehensive review. No new materials (print or electronic) are accepted or considered by COA at the meeting or within 30 days of the meeting.

Following this meeting, the COA's decision is formalized into a Decision Document letter. The Office sends an electronic copy of the Decision Document to the Program Head, the dean of the school or college, and the CEO of the institution and sends the original by U.S. mail no later than 10 calendar days following the end of the ALA conference at which the decision was made.

The Committee's decisions are diagnostic, not prescriptive. Therefore, when the COA has issues or concerns regarding compliance with the Standards, it will state the areas of concern and require reports that describe how the program plans or takes actions to achieve or maintain compliance. If accreditation is denied or withdrawn, the standards at issue as stated in the decision letter of response to the review are made public. If an appeal is filed, the standards at issue are not publicly disclosed until a final decision is made.

The Decision Document contains the following elements:

- The name of the institution and school;
- The name of all ALA-accredited programs offered by the school;
- Accreditation status of the program(s) and the date(s) when this status was granted;
- The date of the next comprehensive review;
- Issues or concerns regarding compliance with the standards, a list of required reports, and a schedule for submission of those reports.

The COA schedules the next comprehensive review as part of its accreditation decision. For Continued accreditation, the next comprehensive review is normally scheduled seven years after the last comprehensive review.

Any standard on which a program has follow-up reporting (following a comprehensive review or interim reporting review) is made public by the Office for Accreditation in the Directory of ALA-Accredited Programs and as a part of the usual means (e.g., press release, Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken reports, and *Prism*).*

** Effective for all programs beginning in May 2018*

Revised April 13, 2018