

I.13 Conditional accreditation

Conditional accreditation status indicates a need for significant and immediate action for improvement in order to be fully compliant with the *Standards*. This status may be conferred following the comprehensive review or following issuance of a Notice of Concern (see section I.16). Conditional status is noted in the print and electronic directories of accredited programs. The COA must place a program on Conditional accreditation status before it can withdraw accreditation. 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 is out of compliance, and schedules either a comprehensive review or a progress review. Either review visit would normally occur three years after the program is placed on Conditional status, unless evidence or circumstance in the interim necessitates other action by COA. A one-year extension is possible under extraordinary circumstances upon approval by COA. The COA also requests a meeting with the Program Head and institutional representatives to discuss the program's plans to remove the Conditional status.

A conditionally accredited program must have a plan for removal of Conditional status approved by COA and must provide subsequent annual progress reports on that plan. 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.

I.13.1 Disclosure of accreditation status

As a public protection, including for prospective students, any reference to the program's ALA accreditation or display of the ALA Accreditation logo must include the following statement:

The [name of master's degree] program at [institution name] is accredited by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, with the status of Conditional accreditation. The next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for [Spring or Fall yyyy].

Any program found to be misrepresenting its accreditation 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.