

CNME Policy on Enforcement of Standards

1. Whenever the Council determines that a program is not in compliance with an accreditation standard or section of a standard, the Council shall either:
 - a. Immediately initiate adverse action against the program (i.e., denial, withdrawal, suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or candidacy, or any comparable action); or
 - b. Require the program to take appropriate corrective action to bring itself into compliance with the accreditation standard, or section of a standard, within a time period specified by the Council that does not exceed two years in length from the date when the Council made its determination.
2. If the program does not bring itself into compliance within the time period specified by the Council, the Council shall either:
 - a. Take immediate adverse action; or
 - b. Extend for “good cause” the period of time provided for achieving compliance. To be eligible for an extension for “good cause,” the program must comply with the four conditions for “good cause” listed in Section 3 below. Such extensions are granted only for limited periods of time, as specified in Section 4 below.
3. The Council may grant an extension for “good cause” if:
 - a. The nature of the non-compliance issue is such that it might require additional time to fully address (e.g., restoring institutional financial stability);
 - b. The program has demonstrated significant recent progress in addressing the noncompliance issue (e.g., the institution’s cumulative operating deficit has been reduced significantly);
 - c. The program provides reasonable evidence that it will remedy the noncompliance issue within the extended time period specified by the Council; and
 - d. The program/institution provides assurance to the Council that it is not aware of any reasons or circumstances not known by the Council that would prevent the program from achieving compliance if granted additional time to address the noncompliance issue.
4. The Council may extend for “good cause” the time period granted to the program to remedy the noncompliance issue for a maximum of six months at a time, not to exceed a total of one additional year. If the Council extends the time period for “good cause,” the Council may, during the extension period, (i) apply a sanction against the program/institution or continue an existing sanction (i.e., letter of advisement, probation, or show cause), and/or (ii) require the program to host an onsite evaluation visit. At the conclusion of the first six-month extension period, the program must appear before the Council to provide further evidence if it seeks a second and final six-month extension period for good cause to remedy the noncompliance issue.
5. In the event that a program fails to remedy a noncompliance issue within the extended time period specified by the Council, the Council shall immediately apply a show cause sanction.
6. The Council shall inform the program of this policy whenever the Council notifies a program of a Council finding of noncompliance.