New England Commission of Higher Education
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel: 781-425-7785 I neche.org

Policy on Notice of Concern

When the Commission determines that an institution is in danger of being found not to meet one or more Standards if current circumstances or trends continue, it will take an action continuing the institution in accreditation, with a formal Notice of Concern.

An institution issued a formal Notice of Concern will undergo an evaluation within two years to assess the institution's success in addressing the identified concerns. If the Notice is for *Institutional Resources*, the visit will include a review of the institution's academic records for students and alumni/ae to assess the policies and procedures in place with respect to the retention, safety and security, and disposal of those records.

If the Commission finds the institution has successfully addressed the concerns, it will remove the Notice of Concern and specify further monitoring. If the Commission has reason to believe that the institution may or may not meet one or more *Standards for Accreditation*, the Commission will ask the institution to show cause why it should not be on probation or why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. If the Commission finds that the concerns have not been sufficiently addressed, the Commission may issue a continued formal Notice of Concern. An institution issued a continued formal Notice of Concern is subject to further monitoring which may include a progress report, Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment (ARFE), or focused evaluation. The Commission will assess the results of that monitoring no later than two years after the continued formal Notice of Concern was issued.

A formal Notice of Concern is not made public by the Commission.

The formal Notice of Concern will be communicated to the institution's president by letter, a copy of which will be sent to the chair of the institution's governing board. For the issuing of an initial formal Notice of Concern, and at the prerogative of the President of the Commission for a continued formal Notice of Concern, Commission staff will ask to meet within 90 days with broad-based representation of the institution's leadership, including the institution's president and the chair of the governing board.

February 2002
June 2005
Editorial changes March 2014
Editorial changes October 2017
November 2017
November 2018
October 2025