

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

ABOUT THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE NOTICE

What is a Public Disclosure Notice (PDN)?

Federal regulations require that accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education provide to the public a brief statement summarizing the reasons an accreditor has taken action to impose Probation, order Show Cause, or terminate accreditation. The regulations also require the accreditor to provide to the public the institution's official comments, if any, in response to the Commission's action. The Commission is required to provide this notice regardless of whether the public, or any member thereof, requests the information. These regulations went into effect July 1, 2010 and apply to all Commission actions since that date.¹ In collaboration with the other regional accrediting commissions, the Commission is using a PDN format that is relatively consistent across all accrediting regions.

How is the Public Disclosure Notice made available to the public?

The Commission makes the Public Disclosure Notice available to the public by posting it with the institution's entry in the online **ACCJC Directory of Accredited Institutions** located at www.accjc.org. If an institution provides a response to the PDN, that response is also posted in the same location. All Notices and institutional responses will be removed from the online ACCJC Directory when an institution is removed from Probation or Show Cause or one year after the institution's accreditation has been terminated.

When must the institution provide its Response to the Public Disclosure Notice?

The Public Disclosure Notice and the institution's response must be posted no later than 60 days following the Commission action. In order to achieve this deadline, the institution's response must be received by February 28 for January Commission Meeting actions and by July 31 for June Commission Meeting actions. If the institution wishes to make an official response to the Public Disclosure Notice, the response should be sent by email attachment to accjc@accic.org, or mailed to ACCJC, 10 Commercial Blvd. Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949.

¹ The U.S. Department of Education regulatory reference for public notification of accrediting agency actions on an institution's accreditation status can be found at 34 C.F.R. § 602.26.