

FAQS REGARDING CHANGES TO THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS ON 1/1/15

Why does the CoARC want to eliminate the status of Initial Accreditation?

This decision is based on CoARC's ongoing effort to maintain appropriate policies and procedures that ensure fair and consistent accreditation decisions. Prior to 2012, Initial Accreditation was the first accreditation status granted to a program. With the elimination of the Letter of Review status and other changes to the accreditation policies over the past few years, the differences between Initial Accreditation and Continuing Accreditation have diminished to the point where the CoARC Board has determined that the conferral of Continuing Accreditation following Provisional Accreditation is warranted.

When will this policy change occur?

The elimination of Initial Accreditation will take place with the Accreditation Policy changes on January 1, 2015.

My Letter of Intent Application has been submitted. How will this policy change impact my application?

There will be no impact on your application process. That process for seeking an Approval of Intent remains the same as of the effective date of the policy changes.

My program currently holds an Approval of Intent. How will this policy change impact my application?

There will be no impact on your status. That process for seeking Provisional Accreditation remains the same as of the effective date of the policy changes.

My program currently holds Provisional Accreditation. How will this policy change impact my application?

Once graduates have been produced and at least three (3) reporting years of outcomes have been collected and analyzed, a Provisionally-Accredited program may apply for Continuing Accreditation (in the previous policies, it was Initial Accreditation). Following the completion of the second on-site evaluation, the CoARC will confer Continuing Accreditation or Withhold Continuing Accreditation. Programs on Provisional Accreditation that have three (3) consecutive reporting years of one or more outcomes below threshold and which have submitted one or more progress reports may be subject to Withhold of Continuing Accreditation.

My program currently holds Initial Accreditation. How will this policy change impact my application?

As of the effective date of the policy changes, **ALL** programs currently holding Initial Accreditation will have their status changed to Continuing Accreditation.

Continuing Accreditation remains in effect until accreditation is withdrawn voluntarily or involuntarily.

Every accredited base program must have its status reaffirmed no more than five (5) years after Continuing Accreditation is initially conferred, and no more than ten (10) years following each subsequent reaffirmation. For Additional Degree Track programs, Sleep Disorders Specialist programs, and Satellite programs (see definitions in Section 2 of the Policies Manual), will assume the reaffirmation cycle of the base programs after Continuing Accreditation is initially affirmed.

My program currently holds Continuing Accreditation. How will these policy changes impact my program?

This change will have no impact on your program. The accreditation process and timeline will stay the same for your program. Please contact the CoARC Executive Office if you are unsure as to when your next program evaluation is scheduled.