

POLICY 304: Types of Actions for Joint Initial and Joint Continuing Accreditation for Advanced Practice Provider Programs

An advanced practice provider program is considered for joint initial or joint continuing accreditation by the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners when reviewed for compliance with the Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria.

A. Joint Initial Accreditation

The maximum amount of time for initial accreditation shall be three years.

Granted

1. Joint initial accreditation of an advanced practice provider program is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program demonstrates compliance with all Accreditation Standards.

Denied

1. Joint initial accreditation of an advanced practice provider program is denied when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program does not demonstrate compliance with all Accreditation Standards. This is an appealable action.

Initial Interim Accreditation Report

1. When an advanced practice provider program has been granted joint initial accreditation, the program must submit an Initial Interim Accreditation Report in the third year of initial accreditation. This report constitutes a basis for the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision.
2. Based on the review of the Initial Interim Accreditation Report, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may determine that an advanced practice provider program is:
 - a. Compliant; consequently, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant an advanced practice provider program continuing accreditation for a maximum period of four years.
 - b. Non-compliant with one or two Accreditation Standards; consequently, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant an advanced practice provider program continuing accreditation with contingency. See maximum monitoring period in Continuing Accreditation with Contingency or Probation Status below.
 - c. Non-compliant with three or more Accreditation Standards; consequently, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant an advanced practice provider program continuing accreditation with probation. See maximum monitoring period in Continuing Accreditation with Contingency or Probation Status below.

- d. Denied continuing accreditation. An advanced practice provider program seeking continuing accreditation may be denied continuing accreditation. An advanced practice provider program denied continuing accreditation will be removed from the list of accredited programs. Denial of continuing accreditation is an appealable action.

B. Joint Continuing Accreditation

The maximum amount of time between continuing accreditation cycles shall be seven years.

1. Joint continuing accreditation of an advanced practice provider program is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program demonstrates compliance with all Accreditation Standards. Next review shall be in a maximum of seven years.
2. Joint continuing accreditation with contingency of an advanced practice provider program is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program is in non-compliance with one or two Accreditation Standards. The next review and follow-up action(s) are jointly determined by the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners.
3. Joint continuing accreditation with probation is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program is in non-compliance with three or more Accreditation Standards. The next review and follow-up action(s) are jointly determined by the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners.
4. Continuing accreditation with a removal of contingency is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program is in compliance with the Accreditation Standards reviewed.
5. Continuing accreditation with a removal of probation is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program is in compliance with the Accreditation Standards reviewed.
6. Continuing accreditation with a removal of show cause is granted when the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines an advanced practice provider program is in compliance with the Accreditation Standards reviewed.
7. Continuing accreditation with show cause – see below.
8. Denied continuing accreditation. An advanced practice provider program seeking continuing accreditation may be denied continuing accreditation. An advanced practice provider program denied continuing accreditation will be removed from the list of accredited programs. Denial of continuing accreditation is an appealable action.

C. Denial of Joint Initial Accreditation or Denial of Joint Continuing Accreditation

The advanced practice practitioner program may restart the candidacy process after the denial of joint initial accreditation or denial of joint continuing accreditation.

1. If a sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program appeals the denial of joint continuing accreditation, the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program may restart the candidacy process only after the conclusion of the appeal process.

2. If a sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program pursues arbitration, the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program may restart the candidacy process only after the conclusion of the arbitration process.
3. If a sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program pursues legal proceedings, the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program may restart the candidacy process only after the conclusion of the legal proceedings.

D. Effective Date

1. Joint Initial Accreditation
 - a. Upon granting joint initial accreditation, the effective date of initial accreditation is the date on which the advanced practice provider program was approved as a candidate program that concluded in the granting initial accreditation.
 - b. Upon denying joint initial accreditation, the effective date of denying initial accreditation will be the date on the decision letter.
2. Joint Continuing Accreditation
 - a. Upon granting joint continuing accreditation, the effective date of granting continuing accreditation will be the date on the decision letter.
 - b. Upon denying joint continuing accreditation, the effective date of denying continuing accreditation will be the date on the decision letter.

E. Joint Continuing Accreditation with Contingency or Probation Status

Joint Continuing Accreditation with Contingency

1. When the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program is non-compliant with one or two Accreditation Standards, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant an advanced practice provider program continuing accreditation with contingency for a maximum monitoring period of two years.
2. When an advanced practice provider program has been granted continuing accreditation with contingency, the program must submit a Follow-Up Report addressing the Standard(s) with which the advanced practice provider program was found to be in non-compliance; a follow-up visit may be required within a specified period of time. The administrative record (e.g., Follow-Up Report, or Follow-Up Report and Follow-Up Site Visit Report) constitute a basis for the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision.
3. The length of the monitoring period defines the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners action the next time an advanced practice provider program is reviewed. At the next review,
 - a. If the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program is in compliance with the Accreditation Standards reviewed, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant continuing accreditation with a removal of contingency.
 - b. If the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program is in non-compliance with the

Accreditation Standards reviewed, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may:

1. Grant continuing accreditation with contingency if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
2. Grant continuing accreditation with probation if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
3. Grant continuing accreditation with show cause if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has concluded, and the program meets the principles of show cause.
4. Deny continuing accreditation and remove the program from the list of accredited programs, whether the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has or has not concluded.

Joint Continuing Accreditation with Probation

1. When the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program is non-compliant with three or more Accreditation Standards, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may grant an advanced practice provider program continuing accreditation with probation for a maximum monitoring period of two years.
2. When an advanced practice provider program has been granted continuing accreditation with probation, the program must submit a Follow-Up Report addressing the Standard(s) with which the advanced practice provider program was found to be in non-compliance; a follow-up visit may be required within a specified period of time. The administrative record (e.g., Follow-Up Report, or Follow-Up Report and Follow-Up Site Visit Report) constitute a basis for the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision.
3. If the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program is in non-compliance with the Accreditation Standards reviewed, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners may:
 - a. Grant continuing accreditation with probation if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
 - b. Grant continuing accreditation with probation if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has not concluded.
 - c. Grant continuing accreditation with show cause if the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has concluded, and the program meets the principles of show cause.
 - d. Deny continuing accreditation and remove the program from the list of accredited programs, whether the maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation has or has not concluded.

Joint Continuing Accreditation with Show Cause

1. If the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines that an advanced practice provider program has not remedied deficiencies at the conclusion of its maximum monitoring period on continuing accreditation with contingency or continuing accreditation with probation, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-

PA Commissioners must (1) deny continuing accreditation and remove the advanced practice provider program from the list of accredited programs or (2) grant continuing accreditation with show cause.

Principles of Show Cause

- I. The ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners can extend an advanced practice provider program's continuing accreditation with show cause if the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determines the program satisfies all the following principles:
 - a. The advanced practice provider program has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance;
 - b. The advanced practice provider program has documented that it has the potential to remedy all deficiencies within the extended period as defined by the Commission; that is, that the program provides evidence which makes it reasonable for the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners to determine it will remedy all deficiencies within the extended time defined by the Commission;
 - c. The advanced practice provider program provides assurance to the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the accreditation of the advanced practice provider program could not be granted continuing accreditation with show cause.
 - d. The advanced practice provider program has the responsibility for making its case for granting continuing accreditation with show cause.

Maximum Monitoring Period – Continuing Accreditation with Show Cause

1. The maximum monitoring period for continuing accreditation with show cause two years from the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners determination of this accreditation status.
2. If compliance with all the Accreditation Standards is not demonstrated within two years, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners must deny continuing accreditation and remove the advanced practice provider program from the list of accredited programs.

F. Final Accreditation Decision

1. The ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision is the final accreditation decision if the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **does not appeal** the denial of initial or continuing accreditation. The effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is the end date per the Commission's decision letter.
2. If the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **does appeal**, the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision is the final accreditation decision if the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program withdraws its appeal before the Reexamination Committee renders its

- decision. The effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is the original effective end date per the Commission's decision letter.
3. If the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **does appeal**, the decision of the Reexamination Committee is the final accreditation decision if that decision is to affirm or amend the Board of Commissioners decision. If the result of an appeal is to affirm the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision, the original effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is also affirmed, which is the original effective end date per the Commission's decision letter.
 4. If the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **does appeal** and the Reexamination Committee's decision is to amend, then acting in a manner consistent with the Reexamination Committee's decision to amend, the Commissioners will make a second accreditation decision. The second accreditation decision is final. If the second accreditation decision is denial of continuing accreditation, then the original effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is the original effective end date per the decision letter.
 5. If the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **pursues arbitration**, the Reexamination Committee's decision is the final accreditation decision if the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program withdraws from arbitration before the arbitrators render their recommendation, or if either party to the arbitration notifies the other in writing by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time ten calendar days from delivery of the recommendation that they reject it. The effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is the original effective end date per the decision letter.
 6. The ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners decision is the final accreditation decision if the sponsoring organization/advanced practice provider program **fails to meet any deadline** in the appeal process or arbitration process. The effective end date of the advanced practice provider program's accreditation is the original effective end date per the Commissions' decision letter.

Within one business day of sending written notification, the final accreditation decision will be made publicly available by the ACEN and ARC-PA.

Policy 304 History
Initial Approval: ___ 2023