

## ***Summary of Negative Action: May 9, 2022***

### **INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION**

#### **Place on a Show Cause Order**

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has ordered Selma University (AL) to show cause why its accreditation should be continued for failure to comply with the following accreditation standards and conditions of eligibility:

- COE 7: Catalog (Evidence of a current and accurate catalog available to students and the public)
- COE 8: Assessment and Public Accountability (Documented evidence that information is available to the public concerning student achievement and institutional performance outcomes, including graduation rates and rate of recent graduate employment in program related occupations)
- COE 15: Student body (Sustained and viable student enrollment in the institution's educational programs over the past two years)
- COE 18: Institutional stability and capacity (documented evidence that the institution has a pattern of stability in enrollment and finances)
- COE 19: Financial Base (Financial base indicating that the institution can achieve its mission and goals within a balanced budget and at a safe level of debt)
- COE 21, Standard 6b: EE 1 Annual Audit (An institution must have financial records that receive an annual, independent, opinioned audit)
- Standard 3: EE 7 (Documentation that the institution demonstrates integrity in financial matters and in compliance with applicable legal and governmental regulations)
- Standard 6b: EE 3 (Documentation of adequate revenue streams sufficient to realize institutional goals, including a detailed accounting of the status, and any actions already taken showing the efforts and results of the financial recovery plan)
- Standard 6b: EE5 (Appropriate board oversight of financial management to meet public accountability obligations)
- Standard 6b: EE 6 (Documentation of sufficient financial reserves to enable effective response to unforeseen financial circumstances and enrollment fluctuations)
- Standard 6b: EE 7 (Documentation of adequate internal controls to safeguard assets and protect personnel from accusations of wrongdoing)
- Standard 9b: EE 5 (Documentation that the faculty is involved in academic-related decision-making processes especially related to admissions criteria, curriculum, and student development).

A progress report, due November 15, 2022, is required documenting the institution's efforts at addressing these issues, followed by a focused evaluation team visit to review institutional compliance. Institutional representatives are expected to meet with the Commission in February 2023 before the Commission makes a decision on subsequent action. The institution retains its accredited status with the Commission on Accreditation while under show cause order.

A show cause order is an appealable action, and such action is not final until the option of appeal has been exhausted. The institution was notified of the action and the opportunity to request a review or appeal on April 29, 2022. No request for appeal was filed during the 10-day period allotted. The action of the ABHE Commission on Accreditation to place Selma University (AL) on a show cause order is final, effective May 9, 2022.

### [Action Letter](#)

#### **The Meaning of a Show Cause Order**

A show cause order is a negative, public action indicating that an institution's accredited or candidate status will be withdrawn unless it can provide persuasive evidence that such action should not be taken. The time allowed to provide this persuasive evidence is not to exceed one year. A teach-out plan, approved by the COA Substantive Change Officer or the appropriate COA committee, is required for institutions placed on show cause. The institution will be required to submit a teach-out plan in accord with specifications in the Policy on Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements within 60 days of the notice informing it of the show cause order. If the institution already has an approved teach-out plan on file, a new plan is not required unless changes are necessary.

In cases where an institution has been on probation for two years, but has failed to correct its deficiencies, a show cause order can only be issued for good cause. In the absence of good cause, the COA is required by federal regulations to remove an institution's status with the COA. The rationale for good cause must be substantive and defensible. A show cause order may be appealed in accordance with the ABHE Policy on Reviews and Appeals. Notification of an appealable action will not be released until appeal options have been exhausted and the action is final.