

Commission Procedure for the Appeal of Adverse Actions

The following actions of the Commission are subject to appeal: denial or withdrawal of candidacy, placement on probation, and denial or withdrawal of accreditation.

The New England Commission of Higher Education administers the appeals process, an arrangement that affords a clear separation between the body making the decision and the group hearing the appeal. Administration of the appeals process entails scheduling, making logistical arrangements, distributing materials, and securing legal counsel for the appeals panel.

Individuals serving on the appeals panel for any given decision are drawn from the Appeals Panel Pool and appointed by the Commission. The pool for the appeals panel consists of former Commissioners and other individuals with successful experience serving on or chairing evaluation teams. The names of the appeals panel for any given decision are supplied by the Commission to the Association. Names of appeal panel members will be posted on the Commission's website under "Recent Commission Actions."

The panel will not include anyone who made the decision that is being appealed but will otherwise include individuals who are familiar with the Commission's *Standards for Accreditation* and its policies. The panel will include administrators and academics and at least one of every seven persons shall meet the Commission's definition of a public member. If the institution filing the appeal offers programs through distance education, that expertise will be represented on the appeals panel.

Individuals serving on the appeals panel will be subject to the Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy. The names of the appeal panel will be made public.

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