



May 8, 2018 **REVISED** May 15, 2018**

ID Code 00010582(MC)

VIA E-MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

regulatory.birmingham@vc.edu

Mr. Gregory Gossett
Campus President
Virginia College
488 Palisades Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35209-5154

Subject: Institutional Show-Cause Directive – Adverse Action by another Agency
RE: Virginia College, Birmingham, Alabama (00010582 MC)

Dear Mr. Gossett:

On May 1, 2018, ACICS received a copy of the adverse action by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training with regards to the application by Virginia College, LLC (dba Virginia College, Golf Academy of America, and Ecotech Institute) for initial accreditation by that agency. Detailed in 57 pages of its 59-page letter to Mr. John Carreon, SVP, Regulatory Affairs and Associate General Counsel, ACCET provided its assessment of the 23 standards where the entire system or specific campuses within the system failed to demonstrate compliance, in a systematic and effective manner. The 23 areas of non-compliance include Completion and Placement, Certification and Licensing, Employer/Sponsor Satisfaction, Student Satisfaction, Student Progress, Attendance, Student Services, Admissions/Enrollment, Instructor Orientation and Training, Supervision of Instruction, Instructional Methods, Curriculum Review/Revision, Externship/Internships, Program/Instructional Materials, Educational Goals and Objectives, Financial Assistance/Scholarships, Financial Procedures, Communications, Human Resource Management, Institutional Management, Governance, Mission, and Learning Resources, Equipment and Supplies.

Further, 14 of the campuses within the institution have been directed by ACICS to show-cause why their approvals should not be withdrawn for below standard placement outcomes. The institution's accreditation is also in jeopardy of being withdrawn having reported a 37% placement at the main campus. This action would affect all **33** campuses within the system. Additionally, 10 campuses are on compliance warning for student achievement outcomes.

Council Action

The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Council, has determined that given the adverse action taken by another recognized accrediting agency and the student achievement show-cause directive against the institution, the institution does not materially operate in accordance with the *Accreditation Criteria*. Therefore, the institution has been directed to show-

cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn by suspension at the Council's August 2018 meeting.

In response to the show-cause directive, the institution must submit the following information by **July 9, 2018**:

1. A detailed narrative, with documentation, on all the areas of non-compliance identified in the ACCET May 1, 2018, letter.
2. A detailed explanation on all current areas of non-compliance with ACICS standards, including the student achievement show-cause directive and compliance warning actions to a number of the campuses.

Five hard copies of your response and one electronic copy via the Show-Cause application on the institution's account, must be received by the date indicated above. Failure to provide all information requested by the Council may result in the withdrawal of your institution's accreditation.

The institution must respond to this **directive in person** and is required to review and follow the Council hearing procedures as detailed in Section 2-3-500 of the *Accreditation Criteria* and the "Schedule of Fees" listing on the ACICS website. The institution must provide the appropriate notification and fee within **ten business days (May 22, 2018)** of receipt of this notice.

Institutional Teach-Out Plan

Further, in compliance with Section 2-3-230 of the *Accreditation Criteria*, the institution must submit an Institutional teach-out plan which includes the following for all its campuses:

- a. A listing of students with the student name; program of study; expected graduation date; and status of unearned tuition, status of refunds due, and current account balance for each student.
- b. A listing of comparable programs offered at other nearby institutions in the event that teach-out agreements or transfer arrangements are needed for students to complete their programs elsewhere.
- c. A custodian for all permanent academic records in case of closure that includes contact information for this individual or entity and the process by which students can obtain their records.
- d. A description of the financial resources available to ensure that students can complete their programs or receive refunds if the institution does cease operations.

The Council is obligated to take adverse action against any institution that fails to come into compliance with the *Accreditation Criteria* within the established time frames without good cause. Please consult the Introduction of Title II, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Criteria* for additional information.

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The institution's ongoing attention and efforts toward continuous improvement are a very important component of its accredited status, and your responsiveness to this Council action letter is essential to a favorable outcome for both the campus and its students.

Please contact Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam at pwgilliam@acics.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Edwards". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned over a faint, light-colored background that appears to be a watermark or a stylized graphic of a torch.

Michelle Edwards
President and CEO

- c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
Ms. Tivoli Nash, Alabama Community College System (tivoli.nash@accs.edu)
Ms. Teri Stanfill, Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education
(teri.stanfill@azppse.gov)
Dr. Michael Marion Jr., California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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Ms. Lorna Candler, Colorado Department of Higher Education
(lorna.candler@dhe.state.co.us)
Mr. Samuel Ferguson, Florida Department of Education (Joey.Smith@fldoe.org)
Ms. Corinna Robinson, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
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Ms. Carol Marabella, Louisiana Board of Regents (carol.marabella@la.gov)
Ms. Kim Verneuille, Mississippi Commission of Proprietary School and College
Registration (kverneuille@mccb.edu)
Mr. Scott Corl, North Carolina Community College System
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Ms. Nora House, Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools
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Ms. Lane Goodwin, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
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Ms. Julie Woodruff, Tennessee Higher Education Commission (julie.woodruff@tn.gov)
Ms. Cathie Maeyaert, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
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Texas Workforce Commission (Career.schools@twc.state.tx.us)
Ms. Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
(sylviarosacasanova@schev.edu)