



May 2, 2018

ID Code 00011238(MC)

VIA E-MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

acics21@national-college.edu

Mr. Mike McKinley
Campus Director
American National University
2376 Sir Barton Way
Lexington, KY 40509

**Subject: Renewal of Accreditation and Campus-Level Student Achievement - Continued
Show-Cause Directive**

AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, KY	ID CODE: 00011238(MC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, DANVILLE, KY	ID CODE: 00010147(BC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, FLORENCE, KY	ID CODE: 00010154(BC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, LOUISVILLE KY	ID CODE: 00010250(BC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, PIKEVILLE, KY	ID CODE: 00010725(BC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, RICHMOND, KY	ID CODE: 00010456(BC)
AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH BEND, IN	ID CODE: 00037761(BC)

Dear Mr. McKinley:

At its April 2018 meeting, the Council reviewed your institution's application for renewal of accreditation, the evaluation team's visit reports, and the institution's responses to those reports. While some campuses were able to resolve all of their findings from the evaluation team's visit report, one finding remains for the Lexington campus.

Further, the following campuses remain materially out of compliance due to the campus-level retention rates and placement rates reported on the Campus Accountability Report (CAR) as listed below for 2017, which resulted in a student achievement show-cause action for the institution, issued by the Council at the December 2017 meeting:

ID. Code	Campus	2017 Retention %	2017 Placement %
00011238	Lexington main campus	39%	
00010147	Danville branch campus	51%	31%
00010154	Florence branch campus	49%	
00010250	Louisville branch campus	N/A	24%
00010456	Richmond branch campus	40%	
00037761	South Bend branch campus	40%	

As a result of its review of the aforementioned materials, the Council found the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

Lexington main campus

The institution first appeared before the Council in December 2017 with five findings, four of which were resolved to the Council's satisfaction. In addition to the student achievement show-cause, the campus has one remaining finding, which has not been resolved. As a result of its review, the Council found the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

1. The CEP submitted does not contain sufficient analysis and assessment of historical outcomes and how these outcomes have been used to improve educational processes. (Section 3-1-110 and 3-1-113 and Appendix K). The campus submitted their 2018 CEP, which included some evaluation of the last three year's performance with descriptions of the methodology and rationale for graduation rates as well as narrative on the revision of curriculum and termination of programs. In addition, documentation was provided to demonstrate implementation of various activities. The campus also provided a two-year plan for the review of the CEP and a summary on the campus's retention action plan.

However, the campus did not provide appropriate analysis of student learning outcomes (SLO's). The campus identified course surveys, course learning outcomes, and programmatic exams as the SLO's utilized; however, satisfaction in a course is not an indication of actual learning. Further, with only one year's worth of data for the levels of graduate and employer satisfaction and SLO's, the analysis has no historical context for comparison.

2. The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The retention rate of 39% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), is materially below the Council standard of 60%.

Danville branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in December 2017 with one finding, which the campus has resolved. However, as a result of the review of the 2017 CAR, the Council found the campus out of compliance due to the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The retention rate of 51% and a placement rate of 31% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), are materially below the Council standard of 60%.

Florence branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in April 2017 with five findings and action was deferred pending receipt of additional information for four remaining findings. Following the August 2017 meeting, the Council issued a compliance warning due to three remaining items, all of which the campus has resolved. However, as a result of the review of the 2017 CAR, the Council found the campus out of compliance due to the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The retention rate of 49% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), is materially below the Council standard of 60%.

Louisville branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in December 2017 with six findings, of which four were resolved to the Council's satisfaction. The campus resolved the remaining two findings at the April 2018 meeting. However, as a result of the review of the 2017 CAR, the Council found the campus out of compliance due to the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The placement rate of 24% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), is materially below the Council standard of 60%.

Pikeville branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in April 2017 with four findings and action was deferred pending receipt of additional information for two remaining findings. Following the August 2017 meeting, the Council issued a compliance warning action due to one remaining item, which the campus has resolved.

Richmond branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in April 2017 with four findings and action was deferred pending receipt of additional information for three remaining findings, which the campus has resolved. However, as a result of the review of the 2017 CAR, the Council found the campus out of compliance due to the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The retention rate of 40% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), is materially below the Council standard of 60%.

South Bend branch campus

The campus first appeared before the Council in April 2017 with four findings and action was deferred pending receipt of additional information for one remaining finding. Following the August 2017 meeting, the Council issued a compliance warning action due to one remaining item. Following the December 2017 meeting, the institution had one remaining finding for this campus, which has been resolved. However, as a result of the review of the 2017 CAR, the Council found the campus out of compliance due to the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The campus is not meeting Council standards relative to student achievement (Section 2-1-809 and Appendix L). The retention rate of 40% for the campus, as reported on the 2016 – 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR), is materially below the Council standard of 60%.

Council Action

The Council has determined that the institution is not in compliance with the *Accreditation Criteria*; therefore, the Council acted to **continue the institution's show-cause** to the August 2018 meeting of the Council and direct the institution to explain why its current grant of accreditation should not be withdrawn by suspension or otherwise conditioned. The Council also acted to extend the current grant of accreditation through September 10, 2018. The institution 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 (10) business days of receipt of this notice, by May 16, 2018**. Failure to do so will be considered a deviation from the directives of ACICS and result in a withdrawal by suspension action in accordance with Section 2-3-402 of the *Accreditation Criteria*.

In response to the show-cause directive, the institution must submit the following information by **June 29, 2018**:

Lexington, Danville, Florence, Louisville, Richmond, and South Bend campuses

1. Continued quarterly submission of the following reports, with the next submission due on August 1, 2018
 - a) A corrective action plan that has been incorporated into the current Campus Effectiveness Plan (CEP) and includes specific activities that are being implemented to improve the programs that are negatively impacting the campus-level retention/placement performance for each campus. The campuses must also submit a progress report, corresponding documentation, and any necessary explanatory narrative of all activities implemented and completed for the purpose of retention/placement remediation.

- b) Quarterly 2018 CARs that include all student information, along with evidence that supports the retention rate to include documentation of all retention waivers.
 - c) Quarterly updates on the student progression of current enrollments to the Institutional Teach-Out Plans submitted via the **online Request for Institutional Teach-out Plan application**. This *Request for Institutional Teach-out Plan* was to be completed as part of the institution's response to this show-cause directive.
2. Evidence that all current and prospective students have been advised of the show-cause status. The following statement must be placed prominently on the campus's website, no later than **five business days** following electronic transmission of this notice:
- a) Notice to students and prospective students: American National University has been placed on student achievement show-cause by their accreditor, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"), due to noncompliance with the *Accreditation Criteria* and material noncompliance with retention/placement standards as reported on the 2017 Campus Accountability Reports.

In addition, the following information must be received in response to the renewal of accreditation application:

Lexington main campus

- An assessment of historical outcomes and how they have been used to improve educational processes in all areas, but more specifically as regards to retention, and placement. The campus must also provide more data and analysis for the levels of graduate, and employer satisfaction, and student learning outcomes.

The institution must submit one hard copy of your response and upload the response to the individual campus renewal online applications, accessible through the Member Center, by the date indicated above.

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. Given that the institution's longest program is offered at the bachelor's degree level, you are advised that compliance must be achieved within 24 months from the date the show-cause was first directed by the Council. Please consult the Introduction of Title II, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Criteria* for additional information.

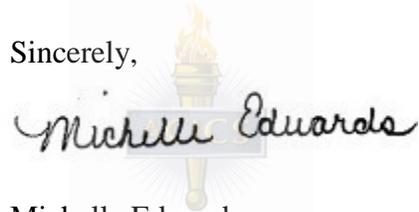
Mr. Mike McKinley

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Please contact Ms. Cathy Kouko at ckouko@acics.org or (202) 336-6790 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The signature "Michelle Edwards" is written in a cursive script. It is overlaid on a graphic of a lit torch with a flame, set against a light, circular background.

Michelle Edwards

President

- c: Mr. Mike Sutton, Danville branch campus (acics24@national-college.edu)
Mr. Robert Slusher, Florence branch campus (acics26@national-college.edu)
Mr. Cliff Messina, Louisville branch campus (acics23@national-college.edu)
Ms. Tammy Riley, Pikeville branch campus (acics22@national-college.edu)
Ms. Paula Ciolek, Richmond branch campus (acics25@national-college.edu)
Ms. Natalie Miller, South Bend branch campus (acics28@national-college.edu)
Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
Mr. Ross Miller, Indiana Board for Proprietary Education (rmiller@che.in.gov)
Ms. Sarah Levy, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (sarah.levy@ky.gov)
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (theresa@caahep.org)