



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501
www.msche.org

November 20, 2015

RECEIVED

Mrs. Geraldine M. Jones
Interim President
California University of Pennsylvania
250 University Avenue
California, PA 15419-1394

NOV 23 2015

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Interim President Jones:

At its session on November 19, 2015, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2017, documenting further steps taken (1) to ensure the institution's short- and long-term financial viability and sustainability, including updated budget and enrollment projections (Standard 3); (2) to assess the effectiveness of the new governance process (Standard 4); and (3) to implement and assess the effectiveness of the new strategic plan (Standard 7). The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019 - 2020.

This action is an affirming action with a request for a follow-up report. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's policy *Accreditation Actions*, which is available on the Commission's website.

For more information on submitting a follow-up report, please see Commission guidelines *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. The institution is obligated to make a full and honest disclosure in its reports.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 3, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: Title IV cohort default rates; USDE Financial Responsibility Composite Scores; and the status with regard to Heightened Cash Management with USDE.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 14, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: 100%, 150%, and 200% normal time to completion graduation rates. For graduate-only institutions, please provide appropriate data on student outcomes such as normal time to completion rates.

Enclosed is a copy of the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) for your review. If any of the factual information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

In accordance with the policy *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*, the accreditation status of the institution must be accurately represented. Please ensure that published references to your institution's candidate status or accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) are accurate and include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency, and the effective date (month and year) when status was granted. Candidate for Accreditation is a status with the Commission that indicates that an institution has achieved membership and is progressing toward, but is not assured of, accreditation.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of California University of Pennsylvania. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Ellie A. Fogarty, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Chair

c: Chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Central Office



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501
www.msche.org

STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

250 University Avenue

California, PA 15419-1394

Phone: (724) 938-4000; Fax: (724) 938-4138

www.calu.edu

**Chief Executive
Officer:**

Mrs. Geraldine M. Jones, Interim President

System:

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Central Office

Mr. Frank Brogan, Chancellor

Dixon University Center

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 720-4000; Fax: (717) 720-4011

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

**Enrollment
(Headcount):**

6076 Undergraduate ; 1902 Graduate

Control:

Public

Affiliation:

Government-State Systems - Unit of PA System of Higher Education

Carnegie

Master's - Larger Programs

Classification:

**Approved Degree
Levels:**

Postsecondary Award/Cert/Diploma (≥ 1 year, < 2 years), Associate's, Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Award/Cert/Diploma, Master's, Post-Master's Award/Cert/Diploma, Doctor's - Professional Practice (Doctor of Health Sciences);

**Distance
Education
Programs:**

Fully Approved

Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education: American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education ; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology ; Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education ; National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation; National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation ; National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Other Accreditors: Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education; National Association of School Psychologists; Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs; Council on Social Work Education; National Association for the Education of Young Children; Educational Leadership Constituent Council; Commission on the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology; American Chemical Society; Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology; Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology; Pennsylvania Department of Health for Basic Life Support Training Programs Emergency Medical Service Institute; World Tourism Organization TedQual Certification System; Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications; National Recreation and Park Association Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions; Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering.

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Campus of Allegany College of Maryland, Somerset, PA; Clarion University, Clarion, PA; Community College of Allegheny County, South Campus, West Mifflin, PA; Southpointe, Cannonsburg, PA; Vo-Tech Center, Johnstown, PA.

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1951

Last Reaffirmed: November 19, 2015

Most Recent Commission Action:

November 19, 2015: To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2017, documenting further steps taken (1) to ensure the institution's short- and long-term financial viability and sustainability, including updated budget and enrollment projections (Standard 3); (2) to assess the effectiveness of the new governance process (Standard 4); and (3) to implement and assess the effectiveness of the new strategic plan (Standard 7). The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019 - 2020.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

June 24, 2010: To reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2012, documenting (1) further implementation of a comprehensive, organized, and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness with evidence that assessment information is used in planning and allocating resources at the institution and unit levels (Standards 2 and 7); (2) implementation of a documented assessment

process for general education (Standard 12); and (3) steps taken to improve institutional support for assessment activities (Standard 14). A visit may follow submission of the monitoring report. To request that the Periodic Review Report, due June 1, 2015, document steps taken to strengthen shared governance (Standard 4).

- June 28, 2012: To accept the monitoring report. To request a progress report, due December 1, 2013, documenting (1) steps taken to use assessment results to improve strategic planning (Standards 2 and 7) and (2) further implementation of a documented assessment process for general education (Standard 12). To remind the institution that the Periodic Review Report, due June 1, 2015, should document steps taken to strengthen shared governance (Standard 4).
- October 31, 2012: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note the institution's decision to close the additional location at Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 6th Ave - Room 430, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1834 and to remove it from the scope of the institution's accreditation. To remind the institution of the progress report, due December 1, 2013, documenting (1) steps taken to use assessment results to improve strategic planning (Standards 2 and 7) and (2) further implementation of a documented assessment process for general education (Standard 12). To further remind the institution that the Periodic Review Report, due June 1, 2015, should document steps taken to strengthen shared governance (Standard 4).
- March 6, 2014: To accept the progress report. To request that the Periodic Review Report, due June 1, 2015, document (1) steps taken to strengthen shared governance (Standard 4), (2) further implementation of the new strategic plan (Standard 2), and (3) further implementation of the new general education program and the assessment of the general education learning outcomes (Standard 12).
- November 2, 2015: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the Doctor of Health Sciences degree within the scope of the institution's accreditation. To note that the Commission will act on the Periodic Review Report at its November meeting.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2019 - 2020

Next Periodic Review Report: 2025

Date Printed: November 20, 2015

DEFINITIONS

Branch Campus - A location of an institution that is geographically apart and independent of the main campus of the institution. The location is independent if the location: offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory

organization; and has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

Additional Location - A location, other than a branch campus, that is geographically apart from the main campus and at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program. ANYA ("Approved but Not Yet Active") indicates that the location is included within the scope of accreditation but has not yet begun to offer courses. This designation is removed after the Commission receives notification that courses have begun at this location.

Other Instructional Sites - A location, other than a branch campus or additional location, at which the institution offers one or more courses for credit.

Distance Education Programs - Fully Approved, Approved (one program approved) or Not Approved indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer diploma/certificate/degree programs via distance education (programs for which students could meet 50% or more of the requirements of the program by taking distance education courses). Per the Commission's Substantive Change policy, Commission approval of the first two Distance Education programs is required to be "Fully Approved." If only one program is approved by the Commission, the specific name of the program will be listed in parentheses after "Approved."

Commission actions are explained in the policy *Accreditation Actions*.