



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

www.msche.org

March 7, 2014

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

Dear President Jones:

At its session on March 6, 2014, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted :

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).

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Statement of Accreditation Status for your institution. The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) provides important basic information about the institution and its affiliation with the Commission, and it is made available to the public in the Directory of Members and Candidates on the Commission's website at www.msche.org. Accreditation applies to the institution as detailed in the SAS; institutional information is derived from data provided by the institution through annual reporting and from Commission actions. If any of the institutional information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

Please check to ensure that published references to your institution's accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency. Further guidance is provided in the Commission's policy statement *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*. If the action for your institution includes preparation of a progress report, monitoring report or supplemental report, please see our policy statement on *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. Both policies can be obtained from our website.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the 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,

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Chair

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

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accredits institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other locations abroad.



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
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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): 7417 Undergraduate; 1927 Graduate
Control: Public
Affiliation: Government-State Systems- Unit of PA System of Higher Education
Carnegie Classification: Master's - Larger Programs
Degrees Offered: Postsecondary Certificate (≥ 1 year, < 2 years), Associate's, Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Master's, Post-Master's Certificate;
Distance Education Programs: Yes
Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education: n/a

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: June 24, 2010

Most Recent Commission Action:

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).

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).

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2019 - 2020

Next Periodic Review Report: 2015

Date Printed: March 7, 2014

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 - Yes or No indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer one or more degree or certificate/diploma programs for which students could meet 50% or more of their requirements by taking distance education courses.

EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

An institution's accreditation continues unless it is explicitly suspended or removed. In addition to reviewing the institution's accreditation status at least every 5 years, actions are taken for substantive changes (such as a new degree or geographic site, or a change of ownership) or when other events occur that require review for continued compliance. Any type of report or visit required by the Commission is reviewed and voted on by the Commission after it is completed.

In increasing order of seriousness, a report by an institution to the Commission may be accepted, acknowledged, or rejected.

Levels of Actions:

Grant or Re-Affirm Accreditation without follow-up

Defer a decision on initial accreditation: The institution shows promise but the evaluation team has identified issues of concern and recommends that the institution be given a specified time period to address those concerns.

Postpone a decision on (reaffirmation of) accreditation: The Commission has determined that there is insufficient information to substantiate institutional compliance with one or more standards.

Continue accreditation: A delay of up to one year may be granted to ensure a current and accurate representation of the institution or in the event of circumstances beyond the institution's control (natural disaster, U.S. State Department travel warnings, etc.)

Recommendations to be addressed in the next Periodic Review Report: Suggestions for improvement are given, but no follow-up is needed for compliance.

Supplemental Information Report: This is required when a decision is postponed and are intended only to allow the institution to provide further information, not to give the institution time to formulate plans or initiate remedial action.

Progress report: The Commission needs assurance that the institution is carrying out activities that were planned or were being implemented at the time of a report or on-site visit.

Monitoring report: There is a potential for the institution to become non-compliant with MSCHE standards; issues are more complex or more numerous; or issues require a substantive, detailed report. A visit may or may not be required.

Warning: The Commission acts to Warn an institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy when the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and a follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. Warning indicates that the Commission believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity to make appropriate improvements within a reasonable period of time and the institution has the capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation: The Commission places an institution on Probation when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and that the non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or acute that it raises concern about one or more of the following:

1. the adequacy of the education provided by the institution;
2. the institution's capacity to make appropriate improvements in a timely fashion; or
3. the institution's capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation is often, but need not always be, preceded by an action of Warning or Postponement. If the Commission had previously postponed a decision or placed the institution on Warning, the Commission may place the institution on Probation if it determines that the institution has failed to address satisfactorily the Commission's concerns in the prior action of postponement or warning regarding compliance with Commission standards. This action is accompanied by a request for a monitoring report, and a special visit follows. Probation may, but need not always, precede an action of Show Cause.

Suspend accreditation: Accreditation has been Continued for one year and an appropriate evaluation is not possible. This is a procedural action that would result in Removal of Accreditation if accreditation cannot be reaffirmed within the period of suspension.

Show cause why the institution's accreditation should not be removed: The institution is required to present its case for accreditation by means of a substantive report and/or an on-site evaluation. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

Remove accreditation. If the institution appeals this action, its accreditation remains in effect until the appeal is completed.

Other actions are described in the Commission policy, "Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation."