



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

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
4400 Massachusetts Ave. N. W.
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: (202) 885-2121; Fax: (202) 885-3265
www.american.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Cornelius M. Kerwin, President

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 6810 Undergraduate; 5373 Graduate
Control: Private (Non-Profit)
Affiliation: United Methodist Church
Carnegie Classification: Doctoral/Research
Degrees Offered: Certificate/Diploma, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctor's - Professional Practice, Doctor's - Research/Scholarship;
Distance Education Programs: Yes

Accreditors Approved by U.S. Secretary of Education: Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC); American Bar Association (ABA), Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar; American Psychological Association (APA), Committee on Accreditation ; National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), Commission on Accreditation ; National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation ; National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)

Other Accreditors: National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASCTEC), Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Art in Italy, Corciano, Italy; HPTi, Arlington, VA; Teach Alt Cert Program (CSSS Charter), Washington, DC; Teacher Alt Cert Program (AQUE), Washington, DC; Teacher Alt Cert Program (Teach for Amer, Washington, DC; Teacher Alt Certification Program (TOPS), Washington, DC

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1928

Last Reaffirmed: June 23, 2004

Most Recent Commission Action: ita...

June 28, 2007: To accept the progress letter submitted by the institution. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2009.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

June 23, 2004: To reaffirm accreditation and to commend the institution for the quality of the report and progress to date. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2009.

August 19, 2004: The Substantive Change Committee acted to acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request submitted by American University and to include the Foundations Certificate Program in Organization Development, Advanced Certificate Program in Organization Development, and Master of Science in Organization Development offered in collaboration with the National Labor College in Silver Springs, Maryland within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The Periodic Report is due June 1, 2009.

March 2, 2006: To accept the information report. To request a progress letter due April 1, 2007, documenting further revisions in the governance structure and clarification of the role of the governing board. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2009.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2013 - 2014

Next Periodic Review Report: 2009

Date Printed: August 20, 2009

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.

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.a...

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 letter: 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."