

March 8, 2022

Mr. John Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Pathways College
320 N. Halstead Street
Pasadena, CA 91107

Dear Mr. Hall:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Pathways College (Pathways) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 25, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 to Pathways November 18, 2021. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Pathways prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 and the institution's January 14, 2022 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Melinda Lester, Chief Academic Officer, and Elizabeth Price, Manager of Assessment and Accreditation. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to June 1, 2021
4. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2027
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2024 to address:
 - a. a comprehensive financial aid program.
 - b. student services that support the curricular and co-curricular needs of the students.
 - c. progress on plans for enrollment management and financial sustainability.

The Commission commends Pathways in particular for the following:

1. Substantially changing the college's capital structure through the forgiveness of loans made to the college which allows financial stability as it ramps up enrollment in both the undergraduate and certificate programs.

2. Effectiveness in engaging qualified faculty to ensure faculty ownership over academic decisions, an active faculty senate, and an assessment and program review process.
3. Having supportive, responsive and agile operations and an administrative team that continues to support the growth and sustainability of the College.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Develop a comprehensive financial aid program that reflects a serious assessment of the needs of the college's target student population and ensures the college has a strong financial aid team. (CFR 3.1)
2. Provide student services that support the curricular and co-curricular needs of the college's unique student population, particularly in an online environment. (CFR 3.4)
3. Continue to make progress on plans for enrollment management and financial sustainability. (CFR 3.4)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Pathways addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Pathways should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

Pathways must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

Pathways College is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as "this program is accredited" or "this degree is accredited" are incorrect and misleading. The phrase "fully accredited" is also to be avoided since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by Pathways at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs reviewed and included under

this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Pathways' governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Pathways' website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Pathways undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/thh

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Elizabeth Price, ALO
There is a new board chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Pathways College
Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

| Degree Program | Level | Modality |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| Bachelors of Arts Business Administration | Bachelors | Distance Education |
| Bachelors of Arts Liberal Studies | Bachelors | Distance Education |