

August 29, 2024

Dr. Gary Wilfert
Chancellor
Pathways College
2226 N. 7th Street, Suite 220
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Dear Chancellor Wilfert:

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 a meeting of the WSCUC Executive Committee on August 27, 2024, the Commission acted to place Pathways on Notice of Concern. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to Pathways on February 29 – March 1, 2024 and the Progress Report submitted on August 8, 2024, using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Progress Report
2. Issue a Notice of Concern
3. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2025 to address the recommendations below
4. Request a Progress Report to be submitted by October 31, 2024 to provide (1) an update on enrollment and projected revenue and expense; (2) update on the status of Pathways' application for Title IV recognition; (3) documentation of formal commitments from donors for underwriting general operating expenses and for projected student scholarships that are critical to achieving enrollment and financial targets; (4) an explanation and documentation of why Pathways moved its main office from California to Arizona; and (5) an explanation of the financial model for dual enrollment that includes all sources of revenue generated, the expenses to be borne by Pathways, and the way that remaining revenue is shared between Pathways and partner institutions or organizations
5. Request a Progress Report to be submitted by April 15, 2025 to provide an update on (1) enrollment; (2) the status of Pathways' application for Title IV recognition; and (3) status and documentation of formal commitments from donors for projected student scholarships.

Notice of Concern

A Notice of Concern provides notice to the institution that, while it currently meets WSCUC Standards, it is in danger of being found out of compliance with one or more Standards if current trends or findings continue. Institutions issued a Notice of Concern are scheduled for a Special Visit within four years. If the issues are not remedied a sanction could be imposed as described in the Handbook of Accreditation. A Notice of Concern is public information and will be posted on the WSCUC website.

Standard at Risk of Non-Compliance and Requiring a Response

Pathways is in danger of being found out of compliance with Standard 3, specifically CFR 3.4. The college continues to struggle to achieve a sustainable financial model that includes predictable sources of funding for students consistent with its mission and plan to increase enrollment.

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

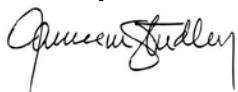
1. Resolve issues that are inhibiting the institution's enrollment and financial stability through qualification for Title IV funding, or by systematizing an institutional financial aid program that assists students in securing non-federal aid sources, to support Pathways [in delivering debt-minimal education in accord with its mission and plans for achieving financial stability]. (CFRs 1.1 and 3.4)
2. Engage the Board of Trustees effectively with the institution's leadership in the development of strategic plans to include financial sustainability and enrollment planning. (CFR 4.6)
3. Create a realistic plan to strengthen student services that support the curricular and co-curricular needs students, including a financial model for dual enrollment, particularly as enrollment grows. (CFRs 2.1, 2.5, and 3.4)

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.

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 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: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Daniella Baker, ALO
Frank Covalleskie, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President