

Statement of Accreditation Status

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CEO: Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, Interim President

Accreditation Liaison Officer: Mr. Matthew Cettin

Commission Staff Liaison: Dr. Robert Bonfiglio, Vice President

Carnegie Classification: Master's Colleges & Universities: Larger Programs » Four-year, medium, primarily residential

Control: Public

Former Name(s): California State College (7/1/1983)

Phase: Accredited

Status: Accreditation Reaffirmed

Accreditation Granted: 1951

Last Reaffirmation: 2015

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2019-2020

Next Mid-Point Peer Review: 2024

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Accreditation Actions

The following represents the MSCHE accreditation actions taken in the last ten (10) years.

June 23, 2022

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note that the institution hosted a virtual site visit in lieu of an on-site visit in accordance with the United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 17, 2020. To reaffirm accreditation. To note that a verification visit is required by USDE guidelines and will be conducted within a reasonable period of time following the virtual site visit. To remind the institution of the Commission action of March 10, 2022, that includes the change of name to Pennsylvania Western University.

June 23, 2022

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To remind the institution of the Commission action of March 10, 2022, and to note the action of March 10, 2022, and to note that Clarion University of Pennsylvania will be integrated into Pennsylvania Western University (formerly California University of Pennsylvania) as of the effective date of the transaction, anticipated to be July 1, 2022. To note the Commission action for Clarion University of Pennsylvania of June 23, 2022 and to remind the institution of its obligation to address the team findings from the evaluation visit of the Clarion University of Pennsylvania. To request that the Pennsylvania Western University supplemental information report due October 1, 2022, also include further evidence of (1) the development and implementation of organized and systematic assessment of nonacademic units (Standard VI) and (2) an annual independent audit confirming financial viability and evidence of follow up on any cited concerns (Standard VI). To direct the institution to conduct a new comprehensive evaluation in accordance with Commission policy and procedures and federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.22(h) in anticipation of an evaluation visit in 2024-2025. To note the date of the evaluation is one year earlier than the date indicated in the March 10, 2022 action.

March 10, 2022

To acknowledge receipt of the complex substantive change request. To include the change in legal status, form of control, or ownership within the institution's scope of accreditation. To note the complex substantive change request includes a modification of the fundamental structure of the institution pursuant to the legislative authorization of Act 188 as amended (including Act 50 of 2020), that integrates Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with and into California University of Pennsylvania effective July 1, 2022, the anticipated date of the transaction. To note that following such modification, the name of California University of Pennsylvania will change to Pennsylvania Western University. To require verification from the related entity and the institution of the date of the closing of the transaction within five calendar days of the transaction. To note that the surviving institution is responsible for ensuring the submission of all required reports and information on behalf of any of the integrated institutions. To request a supplemental information report, due October 1, 2022, providing evidence documenting (1) a mission that accurately defines the

purpose of the institution, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish (Standard I; Requirement of Affiliation 7); (2) an adequate core of faculty (full-time or part-time) and/or other appropriately qualified professionals with sufficient responsibility to the institution to assure the continuity and coherence of the institution's educational programs (Standard III); (3) accurately described academic programs and outcomes that enable students to understand and follow program requirements and time to completion (Standard III); (4) institutional structures and processes in place to support the student experience, as evidenced by a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success (Standard IV); (5) adequate fiscal and human resources, including physical and technical infrastructure, to support operations (Standard VI); (6) the sufficiency of resources to fulfill its mission and goals and to support its educational purposes and programs (Standard VI; Requirement of Affiliation 11); (7) the implementation of a clearly articulated and transparent governance structure that outlines roles, responsibilities, and accountability for decision-making by each constituency (Standard VII); (8) the updated status of the institution; (9) the implementation of the teach-out plan, including evidence (a) that required notifications to all relevant stakeholders have taken place, (b) communication regarding student records has occurred, and (c) of a final version of the integration planning team milestones including timeframe and status (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures); and (10) submission of any written evidence of approvals from all necessary licensing, regulatory, or other legal entities as necessary, including the United States Department of Education (Requirement of Affiliation 5). To request a supplemental information report due May 2, 2022, providing updated financial projections and organizational charts for the integrated institution. To direct a complex substantive change site visit as soon as practicable but no later than six months after the date of the transaction. To note the transfer of Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania student records, programs, and services to Pennsylvania Western University as part of the integration transaction. To further note that degree granting authority from the Pennsylvania Department of Education will cease for Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania as of July 1, 2022. To note that the following additional locations are included within the institution's scope of accreditation effective as of the integration date: (1) 840 Wood St., Clarion, PA 16214; (2) 219 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444; (3) West First St., Oil City, PA 16301; (4) 751 Liberty Street, Meadville, PA 16335; (5) 147 Poplar Drive, Monaca, PA 15061; (6) 881 Hills Plaza Drive, Suite 450, Ebensburg, PA 15931; (7) College Drive, Butler, PA 16003; (8) 101 Community College Way, Johnstown, PA 15904; (9) 701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; (10) 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; (11) 6022 Glades Pike, Somerset, PA 15501; (12) 4 Erie Avenue, Suite 2000, Saint Mary's, PA 15857; (13) 4900 Friendship Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224; (14) 131 Columbus Inner Belt, New Castle, PA 16101; (15) 102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. To direct a substantive change site visit to all locations as soon as practicable but no later than six months after the commencement of instruction at each location. To require immediate

notification when instruction commences at each location. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if instruction does not commence within one calendar year from the date of this action. To note that the following additional location is closed: Dixon University Center at 2986 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201. To remind the institution of its obligation to inform the Commission about any and all developments relevant to this action. To note the Commission may rescind this action if any developments reveal additional information that might have affected the Commission's decision and/or the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note the actions for Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on March 10, 2022. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, to direct the institution to commence self-study in preparation for an evaluation visit in 2025-2026.

March 4, 2021

To acknowledge receipt of the self-study report. To note that the institution hosted a virtual site visit in lieu of an on-site visit in accordance with United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 17, 2020. To postpone a decision and request a supplemental information report, due September 1, 2021, documenting evidence of the sufficiency of planning and resources to fulfill its mission and goals and to support its educational purposes and programs (Standard VI). To request that the supplemental information report also provide further evidence of a clearly articulated and transparent governance structure that outlines roles, responsibilities, and accountability for decision-making by each constituency (Standard VII). To direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the supplemental information report. To note the visit will also fulfill the verification requirements of the USDE guidelines. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2027-2028.

April 16, 2020

To acknowledge receipt of the self-study report. To delay the On-Site Evaluation visit scheduled for Spring 2020 due to extraordinary circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19) interruptions and to continue accreditation. To note the institution remains accredited during a delay granted by the Commission. The Evaluation visit will be scheduled in accordance with Commission policy and procedures.

October 29, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note the institution's decision to close the additional location at Campus of Allegany College of Maryland, PO Box 100, Somerset, PA 15501. To require immediate notification when instruction ceases at the additional location. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action.

October 29, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note the institution's decision to close the additional location at Vo-Tech Center, 445 School House Road, Johnstown, PA 15904. To require immediate notification when instruction ceases at the additional location. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action.

October 29, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note the institution's decision to close the additional location at Community College of Allegheny County, South Campus, 14750 Clairton Road, West Mifflin, PA 15122. To require immediate notification when instruction ceases at the additional location. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action.

October 29, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note the institution's decision to close the additional location at Southpointe, 135 Technology Drive, Cannonsburg, PA 15317. To require immediate notification when instruction ceases at the additional location. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019-2020.

October 29, 2018

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the second Postsecondary Certificate (< 1 year) in Innovation and Entrepreneurship within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019-2020.

October 17, 2018

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the first Postsecondary Certificate (< 1 year) in Data Science within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019-2020.

August 27, 2018

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the additional location at Washington Hospital, 155 Wilson Avenue, Washington, PA 15301 within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The Commission requires written notification within thirty days of the commencement of operations at this additional location. Operations at the additional

location must commence within one calendar year from the date of this action. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019-2020.

June 22, 2017

To accept the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019-2020.

May 1, 2017

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the second Doctor's - Professional Practice (Doctor of Criminal Justice) within the scope of the institution's accreditation. To note that the monitoring report has been received and will be acted upon by the Commission at the June meeting. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2019 - 2020.

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.

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.

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).

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).

Alternate Delivery Methods

Distance Education

Approved to offer programs by this delivery method

Correspondence Education

Not approved for this delivery method

Locations

Additional Location

Clarion University

840 Wood Street

Clarion, PA 16214

Additional Location

Washington Hospital

155 Wilson Avenue

Washington,, PA 15301