



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-281-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501

www.msache.org

June 23, 2005

Dr. Gladys Escalona de Motta
Office of the Chancellor
University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras
P.O. Box 23300
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00931-3300

Dear Chancellor Motta:

At its session on June 22, 2005, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to reaffirm the accreditation of the University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras, and to request a monitoring report due by November 1, 2006, documenting (1) progress made in the implementation of a comprehensive institutional strategic plan which links long-range planning to decision-making and budgeting processes, (2) implementation of a written plan for the assessment of institutional effectiveness, and (3) progress toward the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum. A small team visit may follow submission of the report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

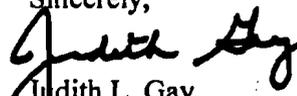
Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Statement of Accreditation Status for your institution. The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) provides important basic information about the institution and its affiliation with the Commission, and it is made available to the public upon request. Accreditation 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*, a copy of which is enclosed.

The Commission on Higher Education expects evaluation team reports to be distributed to all constituencies named on the cover page of team reports: faculty, administration, trustees, and students. Furthermore, the Commission expects any action taken by the Commission to be shared with appropriate campus constituencies.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of the University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, Executive Associate Director.

Sincerely,


Judith L. Gay
Chair

/clr

cc: Lic. Antonio Garcia Padilla, President, University of Puerto Rico
Mr. Justo Reyes Torres, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education

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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO - RIO PIEDRAS
P.O. Box 23300
San Juan, PR 00931-3300
Phone: (787) 764-0000; Fax: (787) 764-8799
www.rrp.upr.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Gladys Escalona de Motta, Chancellor

System Information: University of Puerto Rico
Central Administration
G.P.O. Box 4984-G
San Juan, PR 00936
Lic. Antonio Garcia Padilla, President
Phone: (787) 759-6917; Fax: (787) 759-6061

Institutional Information

Enrollment

(Headcount): 17,702 Undergraduate; 4,053 Graduate

Control: Public

Affiliation: State and Local

Institution Type: Doctoral/Research-Intensive

Degrees Offered: Baccalaureate; Certificate; Master's; Doctorate; First Professional

Distance Learning: School library certificate program

National and Specialized Accreditation: American Bar Association, Council on the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar; American Dietetic Association, Commission on Accreditation/Approval for Dietetics Education; American Library Association, Committee on Accreditation; American Psychological Association; Association of American Law Schools; Council on Occupational Education; Council on Rehabilitation Education; National Architecture Accrediting Board; National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; Planning Accreditation Board.

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None.

Additional Locations: None.

Other Instructional Sites: None.

Accreditation Information

Status: Member since 1946.

Last Reaffirmed: 2005.

Most Recent Commission Action: In June 2005, the Commission reaffirmed accreditation and requested a monitoring report due by November 1, 2006, documenting (1) progress made in the implementation of a comprehensive institutional strategic plan which links long-range planning to decision-making and budgeting processes, (2) implementation of a written plan for the assessment of institutional effectiveness, and (3) progress toward the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum. A small team visit may follow submission of the report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation: Self-Study Evaluation Visit, February 2005. Comprehensive self-study with special emphasis in program evaluation. In June 2005, the Commission reaffirmed accreditation and requested a monitoring report due by November 1, 2006, documenting (1) progress made in the implementation of a comprehensive institutional strategic plan which links long-range planning to decision-making and budgeting processes, (2) implementation of a written plan for the assessment of institutional effectiveness, and (3) progress toward the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum. A small team visit may follow submission of the report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2010.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2014-2015.

Next Periodic Review Report: June 1, 2010.

Date Printed: June 23, 2005 (Not necessarily updated as of this date.)

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.

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Other Instructional Sites - A location, other than a branch campus or additional location, at which the institution offers one or more courses for credit.

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Policy:

Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status

Advertising, Publications, and Promotional Literature

1. Educational programs and services offered should be the primary emphasis of all advertisements, publications, promotional literature, and recruitment activities.
2. All statements and representations should be clear, factually accurate, and current. Supporting information should be kept on file and readily available for review.
3. Catalogs and other official publications should be readily available either on-line or in hard copy and should accurately depict:
 - a. institutional purposes and objectives;
 - b. admission requirements and procedures, including policies on transfer credit;
 - c. academic calendars and basic information on programs and courses, with required sequences and frequency of course offering explicitly stated;
 - d. degree and program completion requirements, including length of time normally required to obtain a degree or certificate of completion;
 - e. grievance procedures;
 - f. faculty and primary administrators (full-time and part-time listed separately) with degrees held and the conferring institution;
 - g. institutional facilities and services readily available for educational use;
 - h. rules and regulations for conduct;
 - I. grading system and related policies;
 - j: tuition, fees, and other program costs;
 - k. opportunities and requirements for financial aid;
 - l. policies and procedures for refunding fees and charges to students who withdraw from enrollment.
4. In college catalogs and/or official publications describing career opportunities, clear and accurate information should be provided on:
 - a. national and/or state legal requirements for eligibility for licensure or entry into an occupation or profession for which education and training are offered;
 - b. any unique requirements for career paths, or for employment and advancement opportunities in the profession or occupation described.
5. Information on student learning outcomes should be available to prospective students.

6. Policies and procedures regarding transfer of credit and credit for extra-institutional college-level learning should be published and implemented. (See "Transfer Credit, Prior Learning, and Articulation.")

7. All information required to be disclosed by applicable law or regulation should be disclosed as required.

Student Recruitment for Admissions

1. Student recruitment should be conducted by well-qualified admissions officers and trained volunteers whose credentials, purposes, and position or affiliation with the institution are clearly specified.

2. Independent contractors or agents used by the institution for recruiting purposes shall be governed by the same principles as institutional admissions officers and volunteers.

3. No misrepresentations should be made in student recruitment, including:

a. assuring employment unless employment arrangements have been made and can be verified;

b. misrepresenting job placement and employment opportunities for graduates;

c. misrepresenting program costs;

d. misrepresenting abilities required to complete intended program;

e. offering to agencies or individual persons money or inducements other than educational services of the institution in exchange for student enrollment.

Representation of Accredited Status

1. The term "accreditation" is to be used only when accredited status is conferred by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

2. No statement should be made about possible future accreditation status or qualification not yet conferred by the accrediting body.

Statements such as the following are **not** permissible:

"(Name of institution) has applied for candidacy with the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools",

"The (Name of program) is being evaluated by the Association of _____ and it is anticipated that accreditation will be granted in the near future."

3. Any reference to state approval should be limited to a brief statement concerning the actual charter, incorporation, license, or registration given.

4. The phrase "fully accredited" must not be used, since no partial accreditation is possible.

5. When accredited status or Candidate for Accreditation status is affirmed in institutional catalogs and other official publications, in print, via the internet or other electronic transmissions, it should be stated accurately and fully in a comprehensive statement including:

a. Identifying the accrediting agency by name, including the agency's address and telephone number

b. Indicating the scope of accreditation as:

(1) institutional (regional or national)

Example for a Candidate Institution:

The University of _____ is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000)

Candidate for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with a regional accrediting commission which indicates that an institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward, but is not assured of, accreditation. It has provided evidence of sound planning, appears to have the resources to implement the plans, and appears to have the potential for reaching its goals within a reasonable time.

Example for an Accredited institution:

The University of _____ is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000) The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Note that the Commission is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education for accrediting activities in the Middle States region, which includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Institutions based outside of the United States, whether or not chartered or licensed within the Middle States region, may not make reference to the Commission's recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Any reference to accredited status may not imply that the Secretary's recognition of the agency extends to foreign institutions.

(2) programmatic (curriculum or unit accredited must be specified)

Examples:

Programs in Art and Design are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, a specialized accrediting agency recognized by (the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation).

The Department of Music at the University of _____ is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, a specialized accrediting agency recognized by (the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation).

Programs for the preparation of elementary, secondary, and special education teachers at the bachelor's and master's level, for the preparation of guidance counselors at the master's and specialist degree level, and for school superintendents at the specialist and doctoral degree level are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, a specialized accrediting agency recognized by (the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation).

Under no circumstances may the institution imply that the program is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

6. The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented.

a. The accreditation granted by an institutional accrediting agency has reference to the quality of the institution as a whole. Since institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program in the institution, statements like "this program is accredited" or "this degree is accredited" are incorrect and misleading.

Institutions wishing to make a statement about the relationship of a degree or program to the institution as a whole should state that the program or degree is offered at an institution that is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 267-284-5000. The statement also should make clear that Commission accreditation does not imply specialized accreditation of the programs offered.

b. "Free-standing" institutions offering programs in a single field (e.g., a school of art, engineering, or theology), granted accreditation by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency alone, should clearly state that this accreditation does not imply specialized accreditation of the programs offered.

c. Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the statement described above under Representation of Accredited Status. In addition, the institution should indicate the effective date (month and year) candidate status was granted.

7. Institutions shall not display the logo of the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, to indicate the accredited status of the institution.

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