

June 30, 2017

Dr. Carol Ryan  
President  
American University of Health Sciences  
1600 East Hill Street  
Building #1  
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Dear President Ryan:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 21-23, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to AUHS. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by AUHS prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's May 26, 2017 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues: Marilyn Uvero, Vice President for Operations and Development, Scott Amundsen, Provost, Sisi Chen, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment and Ivy Javaluyas, Student Services Director and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). 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 2 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2022 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2023
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2020
5. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2019 to address
  - a. Formally embedding the Institutional Learning Outcome of Christian values throughout the academic curriculum
  - b. Faculty ownership of the assessment process, including their development of assessment strategies, and faculty use of disaggregated student achievement results to make improvements
  - c. The tenure and effectiveness of the institution's executive leadership
  - d. Institutional research and assessment system reviews that evaluate and ensure capacity to provide data needed to inform improvements

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends AUHS in particular for the following:

1. Steadfast and continual community service contributions, through events such as the Acts of Love and the Easter washing of the feet, which are integral to AUHS's mission;
2. Thoughtful and dedicated work in integrating the general education core into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in [Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) curricula and in recognizing and supporting the adjunct faculty role in the process;

3. Improvements in assessment planning and implementation, including three program reviews and the development of detailed curriculum maps, and concerted support from the institutional research office;
4. Significant improvements to the scope, effectiveness and reach of student support services offered through the Center for Academic Success;
5. The provision of high-quality learning resources for students, including classrooms, learning laboratories, library, and information technology;
6. The president's transformational leadership in creating a campus climate and culture that is recognized and celebrated across the institution;
7. The president's highly qualified and experienced leadership team, including the provost, chief operating officer, and the chief financial officer, and their dedication to the institution;
8. Proactive support for and encouragement of the Board of Trustees' growth and development.

## **Recommendations**

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Student achievement of one of the institution's key pillars, i.e. Christian values, by formally embedding the values into the academic curriculum (CFR 2.2).
2. Faculty ownership of student learning assessment beyond the use of test scores and examination pass rates; a systematic and regular review of disaggregated student achievement data, including student learning outcomes results, to inform improvements (CFR 2.3, 2.4).
3. Sustained and consistent executive leadership characterized by integrity, high performance, responsibility and accountability (CFR 3.1, 3.6, 3.8).
4. Evaluation of the institutional research and assessment functions to ensure the capacity to provide suitable data as AUHS expands its programs (CFR 4.2).

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that AUHS has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

Accreditation status is not granted retroactively. AUHS must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*American University of Health Sciences is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

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 stipulates that this action encompasses the degree programs offered by AUHS at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. This action also encompasses off-campus sites and distance education operational at the time of the action. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, distance education, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive

Change process. Degree programs that have been included under this action may be extended to other current off-campus sites 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 will be sent to the chair of AUHS governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the AUHS 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 AUHS 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,



Mary Ellen Petrisko  
President

MEP/ mam

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair  
Ivy Javaluyas, ALO  
Sara Pol-Lim, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit team  
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

[Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#)

Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science

Master of Science in Clinical Research