

July 8, 2020

Dr. John Hall  
Chancellor/CEO  
Pathways College  
320 N. Halstead Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
United States

Dear Dr. Hall:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Pathways College (PathC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to PathC March 24-25, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by PathC prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's June 10, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Melinda Lester, CAO, Elizabeth Price, Manager of Assessment and Accreditation, and Gary Wilfet, Chair, Board of Directors. 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 Candidacy for a period of five years
3. Schedule a Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 in fall 2022

The Commission commends PathC in particular for the following:

1. Using best practices for online learning with assessment rubrics embedded in their learning management system (LMS). Course syllabi are developed by faculty using detailed course outlines which include an assessment map for course/student learning outcomes and core competencies.
2. Implementing and successfully completing a Program Review process for the Business Administration major, with Liberal Studies and general education program review planned within a year. Faculty and administrators used data from the program review process to implement a new writing center and first semester learning support course for all new students.
3. Creating a process for supporting prospective students through the admissions and enrollment process.
4. Demonstrating commitment to the mission on the part of the Board.
5. Implementing an academic assessment plan which includes active engagement by the faculty.

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

## Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objective through Core Functions

The Commission finds that PathC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 2 at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation.

## Standard 3: Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability

The Commission finds that PathC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 3 at a level sufficient for Candidacy. In order to demonstrate compliance at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation, the following CFRs require additional attention and development:

- CFR 3.4: The institution's capital structure and capacity should be reviewed to ensure consistency with future enrollment plans. This includes the creation of a comprehensive marketing and enrollment management strategy that is integrated into the financial plan.
- CFR 3.7: Integrated planning should be comprehensive and aligned with marketing plans and operational plans. All planning should feed into the financial plan.
- CFR 3.8: The CEO and CAO functions should be separated in order to ensure a focused and functional leadership structure for the institution.
- CFR 3.10: The institution should employ a full-time faculty member to take ownership of the academic programs. The institution should also ensure faculty exercise effective academic leadership to make sure the revenue generating programs align with the institution's educational purposes.

## Standard 4: Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement

The Commission finds that PathC has demonstrated evidence of compliance with Standard 4 at a level sufficient for Initial Accreditation.

In keeping with WSCUC review protocols, the required subsequent review and Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 will focus primarily on those issues identified under each Standard (above) deemed to require additional development. In keeping with WSCUC values, PathC 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 taking this action, the Commission confirms that PathC has met all of the WSCUC Standards a level sufficient to grant Candidacy. The Commission has scheduled the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 fall 2022.

Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the following statement if they wish to describe that status publicly:

*Pathways College has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of five years. Candidacy is an indication that the institution is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not ensure eventual Accreditation.*

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

Institutions granted Candidacy are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission
2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. 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.
3. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of PathC's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be 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.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that PathC 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,



Jamiene S. Studley  
President

JSS/thh

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Elizabeth Price, ALO  
Gary Wilfert, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team  
Tamela Hawley, Vice President