

July 8, 2020

Mr. James Smolich, Esq.
President
Lincoln Law School of Sacramento
3140 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear President Smolich:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Lincoln Law School of Sacramento (LLS) 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 LLS September 25-27, 2019 and the May 22, 2020 Progress Report and exhibits submitted by LLS. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues James Schiavenza, Dean, and Brittany Adkins-Neumann, Director of Admissions and Accreditation and 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 Team Report with supplemental Progress Report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to May 1, 2019
4. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
5. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin on May 1, 2023

The Commission commends LLS in particular for the following:

1. LLS has made substantial overall improvements since SAV1 and has demonstrated evidence of an earnest commitment to institutional improvement. Each CFR identified in the last report was addressed, yielding tangible results. Meanwhile, the school added new team members who bring distinct experiences and fresh perspectives to LLS' culture.
2. LLS has significantly elevated its capacity for governance, providing evidence of a board practicing effective oversight of the school, including adjustments to how the CEO is evaluated, trustees practicing self-evaluation, and the Board demonstrating greater engagement in the strategic planning process.
3. LLS appreciates and embraces the assessment process and the value of data-driven continuous improvement. The faculty, comprised largely of adjunct

professors, are to be commended for embracing the use of SLOs to improve their teaching. Other examples include the creation of the Friday Night Review sessions, the outcome of learnings from the Student Satisfaction Survey, and curriculum adjustments emerging from Program Review.

4. LLS sees value in and is committed to an effective function of institutional research, expanding its IR capacity in data collection and analysis and deploying new surveys to collect data toward continuous improvement.
5. Faculty, students, and trustees are engaged, committed, and appreciative of LLS' efforts to improve. Their comments during the SAV2 visit illustrated their appreciation of how LLS has used the accreditation process to improve the institution.

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

1. Embrace professional development for the board, CEO, and management. Meanwhile, explore developing a competency model, in which LLS identifies key skills and attributes to advance its strategic goals and a plan to link these to senior leadership development. (CFR 3.3)
2. Further align enrollment, financial, and strategic planning, identifying resources needed in key areas such as academics, operations, facilities, and others, as well as developing long-range financial plans that include stretch goals. (CFR 3.4)
3. Continue incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion, including more training and professional development centered on diversity, leading to further integration of these values into the strategic plan. (CFR 1.4)
4. Continue focus on evolving data collection and analysis in assessment efforts. Consider providing professional development and training for the Assessment Committee of the faculty. (CFR 2.4)
5. Further align co-curricular programs and non-credit bearing activities to academic goals and SLOs. Include these programs in the assessment plan. (CFR 2.11)
6. Continue to assess student outcomes, including the relationships among academic program, changes to student support services, and bar pass rates of its graduates, taking into account changes in student demographic characteristics and anticipated gaps in achievement among student groups. (CFR 4.7)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that LLS has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, LLS 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.

LLS must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

Lincoln Law School of Sacramento is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

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

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 degrees offered by LLS at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. 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. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses 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.

Institutions granted Initial Accreditation 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 LLS governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the LLS’s 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 LLS 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
Brittany Adkins-Neumann, ALO
Christopher Wood, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team
Tamela Hawley, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees
Lincoln Law School of Sacramento

1. Juris Doctor