

February 26, 2020

Ms. Kathleen Savita Brownfield  
President  
Mount Madonna Institute  
445 Summit Road  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Dear President Brownfield:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Mount Madonna Institute (MMI) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Mount Madonna Institute. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Mount Madonna Institute prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's January 25, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with your colleagues Swarup Wood, Board Chair, Sarada Diffenbaugh, Chief Academic Officer, Mary Champagne, Board Finance Chair, and Shanti Cruddas, Chief Financial Officer. 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. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to November 3, 2019
4. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2025
5. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin on May 1, 2023
6. Schedule a Special Visit in Spring, 2022 to address the five recommendations listed in this letter

The Commission commends Mount Madonna Institute in particular for the following:

1. Making meaningful progress toward developing robust processes and institutional structures while protecting and maintaining the spiritual context and foundation of all of the institution's goals and those of the larger community.
2. Employing faculty and administrators who exhibit deep and devoted mentorship of students and who are committed to student learning.
3. Using assessment and program review to enhance academic rigor, allowing the institution to have an impact in the field through the strength of its graduates.
4. Developing a realistic, achievable strategic plan with key performance indicators that lays the foundation for sustainable growth.
5. Fostering effective institutional governance by creating a highly-qualified board of directors with diverse areas of expertise who are dedicated to selfless service and committed to the principles of wellness and positive transformation.

6. Executing a detailed long-term financial plan that includes an articulated decision-making process tied to strategic initiatives.

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

1. Continue providing professional development for faculty to promote a culture of assessment that includes use of aggregated program level data. (CFRs 2.4, 2.6, 3.3) The Commission was pleased to learn that MMI has set aside increasing professional development resources in its budgets.
2. Enhance professional development and support membership in professional organizations for administration, student support service personnel, and the board. (CFR 3.3)
3. Carefully monitor the workload and activities of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to ensure there are adequate resources to carry out responsibilities necessary for the success of the institution. (CFRs 4.1, 4.2)
4. In preparation for the possibility of offering federal financial aid, determine the cost/benefit to ensure the appropriate organizational structures are in place to comply with federal regulations. (CFRs 2.13, 3.1)
5. Obtain an audit on a schedule that will permit timely submission to the WSCUC annual report. (CFR 3.4) The Commission was pleased to learn that the audit schedule has been adjusted to allow for this year's annual report.
6. Ensure that the MMI Board continues to remain independent and in compliance with the WSCUC Governing Board Policy.

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that Mount Madonna Institute 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, Mount Madonna Institute 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.

Mount Madonna Institute must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*Mount Madonna Institute 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 Mount Madonna Institute 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 Mount Madonna Institute's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Mount Madonna Institute'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 Mount Madonna Institute 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,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/lp

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Sarada Diffenbaugh, ALO  
John Diffenbaugh, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President  
Barbara Gross Davis, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees  
Mount Madonna Institute

1. Master of Arts, Ayurveda
2. Ayurveda Health Counselor Diploma (non-degree)
3. Certified Ayurveda Practitioner (non-degree)
4. Ayurveda and Yoga Therapy Certificate (non-degree)
5. Yoga Teacher Training 200 (non-degree)
6. Yoga Teacher Training 300 (non-degree)
7. Yoga Teacher Training Pre-Natal (non-degree)
8. Yoga Teacher Training Children (non-degree)
9. Community Studies 1
10. Community Studies 2