



## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501  
www.msche.org

June 24, 2016

Dr. Eric J. Barron  
President  
The Pennsylvania State University  
201 Old Main Building  
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Dr. Barron:

At its session on June 23, 2016, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To accept the supplemental information report addressing the impact of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's budget impasse on the institution's compliance with the Requirements of Affiliation and accreditation standards. The date for the next accreditation review will be determined by the Commission when it revises the accreditation cycle.

To accept the supplemental information report addressing the institution's voluntary withdrawal of program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The date for the next accreditation review will be determined by the Commission when it revises the accreditation cycle.

Enclosed is a copy of the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) for your review. If any of the factual information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.


In accordance with the policy *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*, the accreditation status of the institution must be accurately represented. Please ensure that published references to your institution's candidate status or accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) are accurate and include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency, and the effective date (month and year) when status was granted. Candidate for Accreditation is a status with the Commission that indicates that an institution has achieved membership and is progressing toward, but is not assured of, accreditation.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of The Pennsylvania State University. If any further clarification is

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needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Tito Guerrero, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.  
Chair



**MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**  
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[www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

## STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

### THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

201 Old Main Building

University Park, PA 16802

Phone: (814) 865-4700; Fax: (814) 865-1100

[www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu)

**Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Eric J. Barron, President

### INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

**Enrollment (Headcount):** 77922 Undergraduate ; 14058 Graduate

**Control:** Public

**Affiliation:** Government-State - Pennsylvania State-Related

**2015 Carnegie Classification:** Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity

**Approved Degree Levels:** Postsecondary Award/Cert/Diploma (< 1 year), Postsecondary Award/Cert/Diploma (>=1 year, < 2 years), Associate's, Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Award/Cert/Diploma, Master's, Doctor's - Professional Practice, Doctor's - Research/Scholarship;

**Distance Education Programs:** Fully Approved

**Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education:** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics ; Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. ; American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar ; American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education ; American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education ; American Psychological Association, Commission on Accreditation ; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology ; Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education ; Commission on English Language Program Accreditation ; Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP); Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology ; Liaison Committee on Medical Education ; National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation; National Association of Schools of Music,

Commission on Accreditation,; National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation

**Other Accreditors:** Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences; Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant; Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications; American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians; American Chemical Society; American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International; Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB); Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education; Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET; Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; Council on Rehabilitation Education; Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET; Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET; Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission; Institute of Food Technologists; Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB); National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences; National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB); National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE); National Association of Schools of Public Affairs & Administration (NASPAA); North America Wildlife Technology Association; Pennsylvania Department of Education; Pennsylvania Department of Education Program Approval; Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing - Licensing; Professional Golfer's Association (PGA) of America; Society of American Foresters; Society of Wood Science and Technology

### **Instructional Locations**

**Branch Campuses:** Dickinson Law, Carlisle, PA; Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA.

**Additional Locations:** Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies, Malvern, PA; Penn State Abington, Abington, PA; Penn State Altoona, Altoona, PA; Penn State Beaver, Monaca, PA; Penn State Berks, Reading, PA; Penn State Brandywine, Media, PA; Penn State DuBois, DuBois, PA; Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, Erie, PA; Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, Lemont Furnace, PA; Penn State Greater Allegheny, McKeesport, PA; Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, PA; Penn State Hazleton, Hazleton, PA; Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, PA; Penn State Mont Alto, Mont Alto, PA; Penn State New Kensington, New Kensington, PA; Penn State Schuylkill, Schuylkill Haven, PA; Penn State Shenango, Sharon, PA; Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Lehman, PA; Penn State Worthington Scranton, Dunmore, PA; Penn State York, York, PA.

**Other Instructional Sites:** Abington Hospital, Abington, PA; Allentown, Allentown, PA; Aria Health Systems, Philadelphia, PA; ARIA-SON, Trevoise, PA; Cranberry Township, Monaca, PA; Cranberry Township (RLA), Cranberry Township, PA; Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA; Hanover, Hanover, PA; Hanover (NEPIRC), Hanover Twp., PA; Hazleton Area Academy of Science, Drums, PA; Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA; Kraft/Mondelez, Wilkes-Barre, PA; Lebanon, Lebanon, PA; Marine Corps Recruit Depot Learning Center, San Diego, CA; McConnellsburg, McConnellsburg, PA; McKeesport Hospital, McKeesport, PA; Mount Nittany Medical Center, State College, PA; Navy Yard, Philadelphia, PA; Penn State Center - Engaging Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; Roxborough Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Sallie Mae, Wilkes-Barre, PA; Shady Grove, Shady Grove, PA; Shaver's Creek, Petersburg, PA;

Shippensburg (JLG), Shippensburg, PA; St. Vincent Health Center, Erie, PA; The Penn State Learning Center (Lewistown), Lewistown, PA; Towanda, Towanda, PA; WCC, Youngwood, Youngwood, PA; WellSpan York Hospital, York, PA; Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA; Williamsport, Williamsport, PA.

#### **ACCREDITATION INFORMATION**

**Status:** Member since 1921

**Last Reaffirmed:** June 25, 2015

#### **Most Recent Commission Action:**

- June 23, 2016: To accept the supplemental information report addressing the impact of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's budget impasse on the institution's compliance with the Requirements of Affiliation and accreditation standards. The date for the next accreditation review will be determined by the Commission when it revises the accreditation cycle.
- June 23, 2016: To accept the supplemental information report addressing the institution's voluntary withdrawal of program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The date for the next accreditation review will be determined by the Commission when it revises the accreditation cycle.

#### **Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:**

- June 25, 2015: To reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2017, documenting (1) further implementation of the periodic assessment of the effectiveness of institutional leadership and governance (Standard 4); (2) further implementation of the periodic assessment of the effectiveness of administrative structures and services (Standard 5); (3) review of the enrollment management plan for recruitment, retention, marketing, and advertising, particularly with respect to the enrollment of under-represented students, consistent with the institution's priorities and values (Standard 8); (4) further implementation of the assessment of general education outcomes within the institution's overall plan for assessing student learning, and evidence that such assessment results are utilized for curricular improvement (Standards 12 and 14); and (5) further evidence of articulated student knowledge, skills, and competency levels within existing certificate programs (Standard 13). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2020.
- January 15, 2016: To request a supplemental information report, due February 12, 2016, addressing the institution's voluntary withdrawal of program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

March 15, 2016: Staff acted on behalf of the Commission to request a supplemental information report, due April 10, 2016, addressing the impact of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's budget impasse on the institution's compliance with the Requirements of Affiliation and accreditation standards, specifically Standard 3 (Institutional Resources).

**Next Self-Study Evaluation:** 2024 - 2025

**Date Printed:** June 24, 2016

## **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. **ANYA** ("Approved but Not Yet Active") indicates that the location is included within the scope of accreditation but has not yet begun to offer courses. This designation is removed after the Commission receives notification that courses have begun at this location.

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

**Distance Education Programs** - Fully Approved, Approved (one program approved) or Not Approved indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer diploma/certificate/degree programs via distance education (programs for which students could meet 50% or more of the requirements of the program by taking distance education courses). Per the Commission's Substantive Change policy, Commission approval of the first two Distance Education programs is required to be "Fully Approved." If only one program is approved by the Commission, the specific name of the program will be listed in parentheses after "Approved."

Commission actions are explained in the policy *Accreditation Actions*.