



STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) is the official statement of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) about each institution's current accreditation status and scope of accreditation. The SAS also provides a brief history of the actions taken by the Commission.

Institution: UPR – CAROLINA
Carolina, PR

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Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO): Prof. Stanley Portela-Valentin

Commission Staff Liaison: Dr. Idna Corbett, Vice President

Accreditation Summary

For more information, see the Commission's [Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures](#).

Phase: Accredited

Status: Accreditation Reaffirmed

Accreditation Granted: 1978

Last Reaffirmation: 2019

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2021-2022

Next Mid-Point Peer Review: 2025

Alternative Delivery Methods

The following represents approved alternative delivery methods included in the scope of the institution's accreditation:

Distance Education

Approved to offer programs by this delivery method

Correspondence Education

Not approved for this delivery method

Credential Levels

☑ Approved Credential Levels

The following represents credential levels included in the scope of the institution's accreditation:

- **Associate's Degree or Equivalent**
Included within the scope:
- **Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent**
Included within the scope:

Locations

The following represents branch campuses, additional locations, and other instructional sites that are included within the scope of the institution's accreditation:

Location	Type
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*Definitions: For definitions of branch campus, additional locations, or other instructional sites, see the **Commission's Substantive Change Policy and Procedures**.*

Accreditation Actions

The following represents the MSCHE accreditation actions taken in the last ten (10) years. For more information, see the Commission’s Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures and the Substantive Change Policy and Procedures.

June 24, 2021

To acknowledge receipt of the monitoring report. To note that the institution hosted a virtual site visit in lieu of an on-site visit in accordance with United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 17, 2020. To request that the next self-study, in preparation for a visit in 2021-2022, provide further evidence of (1) clearly documented and communicated planning and improvement processes that provide for constituent participation (Standard VI) and (2) assessment of the adequacy and efficient utilization of institutional resources required to support the institution’s mission and goals (Standard VI).

September 8, 2020

To acknowledge receipt of documentation of written approvals from University of Puerto Rico System Office and the Puerto Rico Board of Post-Secondary Institutions.

August 27, 2020

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the alternative delivery method-distance education within the institution’s scope of accreditation. To require written evidence of approvals from all necessary licensing, regulatory, or other legal entities as necessary, including the University of Puerto Rico System Office and the Puerto Rico Board of Post-Secondary Institutions. To note that the Commission may rescind this action if the requested substantive change is not implemented within one calendar year from the date of this action. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2021-2022.

April 16, 2020

To acknowledge receipt of formal written notice from the institution in response to the Commission’s request of March 9, 2020. To temporarily waive Substantive Change Policy and Procedures and allow the use of distance education to accommodate students impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) interruptions, in accordance with United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 5, 2020. Continued use of distance education beyond the limitations of USDE guidelines will require substantive change approval in accordance with Substantive Change Policy and Procedures. This flexibility is not available for clock-hour courses that lead to licensure if the licensing body will not accept distance learning courses or

hours or give credit for them toward the number of hours a student must complete. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2021-2022.

April 16, 2020

To acknowledge receipt of the monitoring report. To delay the On-Site Follow-up visit scheduled for Spring 2020 due to extraordinary circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19) interruptions and to continue accreditation. To note the institution remains accredited during a delay granted by the Commission. The Follow-Up visit will be scheduled in accordance with Commission policy and procedures.

November 21, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2021-2022.

October 8, 2019

To note that the Commission acted on June 27, 2019 and the Teach-Out Plan that was due September 1, 2019 is no longer required.

October 8, 2019

To note that the Commission acted on June 27, 2019 and the Show Cause Report that was due September 1, 2019 is no longer required.

June 27, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To reaffirm accreditation because the institution is now in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement) and Requirement of Affiliation 11. To request a monitoring report due, March 16, 2020, in lieu of the show cause report due September 1, 2019, demonstrating further evidence of sustainability of implemented corrective measures, including but not limited to: (1) improvements in the institution's annual closing processes and implementation of effective monitoring controls over financial information (Standard VI); (2) the development of multi-year financial plans for the institution that produce balanced budgets, including appropriate revenue assumptions (Standard VI); (3) management of financial reporting that provides for reliable financial data at the institutional level (Standard VI); (4) submission of the 2019 annual audits (Standard VI); and (5) the planning and implementation of restructuring for sustainability (Standard VI). To note that a teach-out plan will no longer be required. To direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is now scheduled for 2021-2022.

June 27, 2019

To note the visit by the Commission's representatives.

May 22, 2019

Staff acted on behalf of the Commission to request a supplemental information report, due September 1, 2019, addressing recent developments at the institution which may have implications for compliance with Standard II: Ethics and Integrity and Requirement of Affiliation 5.

March 14, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the show cause report. To note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To require the institution to continue to show cause by September 1, 2019, to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement) and Requirement of Affiliation 11. To note the institution is now in compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 14 and the Related Entities Policy. To grant an extension for good cause to extend the period to demonstrate compliance by one year because the institution has provided written and compelling evidence that: (1) the quality of the student learning experience has not been compromised at the institution; (2) the institution has the potential to remedy the non-compliance issues identified by the Commission within the period of extension; (3) the institution has developed reasonable plans to meet the Commission's expectations for reaffirmation within the period of the extension; (4) the institution has support from the University of Puerto Rico central administration, the Financial Oversight Management Board for Puerto Rico, and other constituencies for ongoing institutional compliance; and (5) the institution has been impacted by other circumstances outside of the institution's control. To note the institution remains accredited while on show cause. To require a show cause report due September 1, 2019, documenting evidence of the submission of timely and accurate financial audits (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11). The show cause report must also include evidence of: (1) how the institution has improved its annual closing processes and implemented effective monitoring controls over financial information, (2) the development of multi-year financial plans that produce balanced budgets, including appropriate revenue assumptions; (3) management of financial reporting that provides for the timely completion of annual audits, and (4) the planning and implementation of restructuring for sustainability (Standard VI and Related Entities Policy). To direct an on-site show cause visit following submission of the report. The purpose of the on-site show cause visit is to verify the information provided in the show cause report and the institution's ongoing and sustainable compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note that the institution will be invited to appear before the

Commission when it meets to consider the institution's show cause report. To require a supplemental information report due May 1, 2019, documenting evidence of (1) the single audit and audited financial statements for fiscal year 2018, and (2) submission of the 2018 single audit and audited financial statements to the Commission, United States Department of Education, and other parties as required by regulation and/or law (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11). To remind the institution and the related entity of its obligation to provide timely and accurate financial audits. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

March 14, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the teach-out plan. To require that the institution complete and submit for approval due September 1, 2019, an updated comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan (Requirement of Affiliation 6: Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation, and include any signed, teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution.

January 11, 2019

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note that the report did not provide the requested evidence and was not conducive to Commission review. To require the institution to show cause, by January 25, 2019, to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement), Requirements of Affiliation 11 and 14, and the Related Entities Policy. To note that the institution remains accredited while on show cause. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years. To require a show cause report, due January 25, 2019, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. The show cause report must include evidence of (1) documented financial resources, funding base, and plans for financial development adequate to support its educational purposes and programs and to ensure financial stability (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11); (2) updated information on the impact of the Fiscal Oversight Management Board's plan and proposed restructuring on the institution's status and finances (Standard VI); (3) an annual independent audit confirming financial viability with evidence of follow-up on any concerns cited in the

audit's accompanying management letter (Standard VI); (4) a record of responsible fiscal management, has a prepared budget for the current year, and undergoes an external financial audit on an annual basis (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11); and (5) certification by the related entity that it recognizes the Commission's compliance requirements and will ensure that responsibilities of the related entity are fulfilled, including making freely available to the Commission accurate, fair, and complete information through disclosure of information required by the Commission to carry out its accrediting responsibilities (Related Entities Policy; Requirement of Affiliation 14). To require that the institution complete and submit for approval, by January 25, 2019, a comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation, and include any signed, teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution. To direct an on-site show cause visit following submission of the report. The purpose of the on-site show cause visit is to verify the information provided in the show cause report and the institution's ongoing and sustainable compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note that the institution will be invited to appear before the Commission when it meets to consider the institution's show cause report. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

November 15, 2018

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note the visit by the Commission representatives. To postpone a decision on accreditation pending receipt of annual audited financial statement and single audit. To remind the institution of the Commission's June 21, 2018 action continuing the institution's probation because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement) and Requirement of Affiliation 11. To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To remind the institution that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years. To request a supplemental information report due January 2, 2019, providing the audited financial statement and single audit for June 30th, 2017. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

June 21, 2018

To accept the supplemental information report of March 2018 and the monitoring report of September 2017. To note the visit from the Commission representatives. To note that the institution is now in compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 2 (formerly Requirement of Affiliation 3). To postpone a decision on reaffirmation and remind the institution that it remains on probation because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement) and Requirement of Affiliation 11. To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To remind the institution that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years. To request a supplemental information report due September 1, 2018 documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11, including but not limited to (1) evidence that the institution has documented financial resources, funding base, and plans for financial development adequate to support its educational purposes and programs and to ensure financial stability; (2) updated information on the impact of the Fiscal Oversight Management Board's plan and proposed restructuring on the institution's status and finances (Standard VI); and (3) evidence that the institution demonstrates a record of responsible fiscal management, has a prepared budget for the current year, and undergoes an external financial audit on an annual basis (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 11). A small team visit will follow submission of the report. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

February 15, 2018

To accept the supplemental information report. To postpone a decision on reaffirmation. To remind the institution of the Commission's May 18, 2017 action placing the institution on probation because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Requirements of Affiliation 3 and 8 and Standard 3. To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To request a supplemental information report, due March 15, 2018, regarding the status of the institution. In lieu of the April 2018 progress report, to request that the supplemental information report also address the topics of the progress report: (1) document the development of a long-term financial plan using a budgeting process that is aligned with the institution's mission, goals, and strategic plan (formerly Standard 3, now Standard VI) and (2) the use of multiple measures to assess and improve student learning in all programs (formerly Standard 14, now Standard V). A small team visit will follow submission of the report. To note that the monitoring report submitted in

September 2017 will be acted upon at the June Commission meeting. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2020-2021.

October 19, 2017

To request a supplemental information report due, December 1, 2017, regarding the status of the institution. To note the visit by the Commission's representatives and to note that the monitoring report has been received and will be acted on at the March Commission meeting.

May 18, 2017

To accept the Supplemental Information Report. To place the institution on probation because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Requirements of Affiliation 3 (institution is operational, with students actively pursuing its degree programs) and 8 (documented financial resources, funding base, and plans for financial development adequate to support its educational purposes and programs and to assure financial stability), and with Standard 3 (Institutional Resources). To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To request a monitoring report, due September 1, 2017, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Requirements of Affiliation 3 and 8 and Standard 3, including but not limited to (1) the institution is operational, with students actively pursuing its degree programs (Requirement of Affiliation 3) and (2) the institution has documented financial resources, funding base, and plans for financial development adequate to support its educational purposes and programs and to assure financial stability (Requirement of Affiliation 8 and Standard 3). A small team visit will follow submission of the report. To direct a prompt liaison guidance consultation to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note that the progress report due October 1, 2017, will now be due April 1, 2018. To remind the institution of its obligation to inform the Commission about any and all significant developments relevant to this action, including developments relevant to Title IV program responsibilities. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2020-2021.

May 2, 2017

Staff acted on behalf of the Commission to request a supplemental information report, due May 5, 2017, addressing concerns regarding recent developments at the institution which may have implications for current and future compliance with Requirements of Affiliation, Standards, or Commission Policies.

November 17, 2016

To accept the Periodic Review Report, reaffirm accreditation, and commend the institution for the quality of the Periodic Review Report. To request a progress report due October 1, 2017, further documenting (1) the development of a long-term financial plan using a budgeting process that is aligned with the

institution's mission, goals, and strategic plan (Standard 3) and (2) the use of multiple measures to assess and improve student learning in all programs (Standard 14). The next self-study evaluation is scheduled for 2020-2021.

June 26, 2014

To accept the monitoring report. To remind the institution of its obligation to ensure timely production of audited financial statements. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

November 21, 2013

To accept the supplemental information report. To request a monitoring report, due April 1, 2014, documenting evidence of an independent audit for FY2013, with evidence of follow-up on any concerns cited in the audit's accompanying management letter for both FY2012 and FY2013 (Standard 3). To remind the institution of its obligation to ensure timely production of audited financial statements. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

November 21, 2013

To accept the progress report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

June 25, 2013

To note that an extension has been granted for the submission of a supplemental information report that addresses the impact on institutional leadership of the recent changes in governance and administration, and actions planned or taken by the University to ensure ongoing compliance with Standards 4, 5 and 6. The supplemental information report is now due August 1, 2013. To remind the institution of the progress report, due October 1, 2013, documenting evidence of (1) further alignment of planning and resource allocation processes that link planning to decision-making and budgeting processes (Standard 2); (2) development of a comprehensive facilities plan (Standard 3); (3) further development and implementation of a comprehensive, organized, and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness (Standard 7); and (4) further implementation of an organized and sustained process to assess the attainment of learning goals at the program level, including evidence that student learning assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning (Standard 14). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

June 13, 2013

To request, in accordance with the Commission's policy on Public Communication in the Accrediting Process, a supplemental information report, due July 10, 2013, that addresses the impact on institutional leadership of the recent changes in governance and administration, and actions planned or taken by the University to ensure ongoing compliance with Standards 4, 5 and 6. To remind the institution of the progress report, due October 1, 2013, documenting evidence of (1) further alignment of planning and resource allocation processes

that link planning to decision-making and budgeting processes (Standard 2); (2) development of a comprehensive facilities plan (Standard 3); (3) further development and implementation of a comprehensive, organized, and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness (Standard 7); and (4) further implementation of an organized and sustained process to assess the attainment of learning goals at the program level, including evidence that student learning assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning (Standard 14). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

November 17, 2011

To reaffirm accreditation and commend the institution on the quality of the self-study process. To request a progress report due October 1, 2013, documenting evidence of (1) further alignment of planning and resource allocation processes that link planning to decision-making and budgeting processes (Standard 2); (2) development of a comprehensive facilities plan (Standard 3); (3) further development and implementation of a comprehensive, organized, and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness (Standard 7); and (4) further implementation of an organized and sustained process to assess the attainment of learning goals at the program level, including evidence that student learning assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning (Standard 14). The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2016.

Information about the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is one of seven institutional accrediting organizations in the United States and is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). MSCHE accreditation applies to an institution as a whole rather than the specific programs within an institution. MSCHE does not approve or accredit individual programs. The MSCHE accreditation review cycle is continuous and accreditation does not expire. Each institution is reevaluated and monitored on a regular and consistent basis in accordance with the institution's assigned accreditation review cycle and Commission policy and procedures. An institution maintains its accreditation unless it is voluntarily surrendered or withdrawn by the Commission for cause, after the institution has been afforded due process. The institution's current accreditation phase and accreditation status are displayed on the institution's listing in the Institution Directory and in the Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS).