



## 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. Thomas P. Dolan  
Interim President  
Nassau Community College  
One Education Drive  
Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Dr. Dolan:

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

To place the institution on probation due to insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), Standard 6 (Integrity), Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment), and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To request a monitoring report, due November 1, 2016, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14, including but not limited to (1) long-range planning goals and objectives that link academic, facilities, technology, and enrollment management planning to institutional mission and goals (Standard 2); (2) systematic processes for financial planning and budgeting that assess the utilization and allocation of resources (Standard 3); (3) a well-defined system of collegial governance that includes a) procedures for periodic assessment of the governing body, b) a process for orienting new members and for providing updates for current members on the duties and responsibilities of the governing board, and c) defined governance responsibilities of faculty and administration (Standard 4); (4) assessment of the effectiveness of administrative structures, services, roles, and responsibilities (Standard 5); (5) clear evidence of institutional ethics including a) adherence to the Commission's policy on Political Intervention in Education, b) an institutional climate that fosters respect among students, faculty, staff and administration, c) fair and impartial practices in hiring employees, d) effective policies and procedures for tracking and resolving student complaints, and e) assurance of due process in student discipline policies and procedures (Standard 6); (6) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process to evaluate and

improve the total range of programs and services (Standard 7); and (7) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process, that makes use of both direct and indirect measures, to evaluate and improve teaching and learning in all programs, including general education (Standard 14). A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. The date of the next accreditation review will be established when accreditation is reaffirmed.

This action is a non-compliance action and includes a request for a monitoring report and a visit. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's policy *Accreditation Actions*.

For more information on submitting a follow-up report, please see Commission guidelines *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. The institution is obligated to make a full and honest disclosure in its reports.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 3, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: Title IV cohort default rates; USDE Financial Responsibility Composite Scores; and the status with regard to Heightened Cash Management with USDE.

If the request for a follow-up report includes Standard 14, the Commission requires that you include in or submit with the report the following data for the three most recent years: 100%, 150%, and 200% normal time to completion graduation rates. For graduate-only institutions, please provide appropriate data on student outcomes such as normal time to completion rates.

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.

A Public Disclosure Statement (PDS) has also been developed, consistent with the Commission's policy on *Public Communication in the Accrediting Process*. The statement provides an explanation of the nature of the institutional accreditation action that has been taken by the Commission. The PDS will accompany the institution's SAS and will be made available on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education website. In accordance with federal regulation, both documents will be made available to the public. If any of the factual information in these documents is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible. Also in accordance with federal regulation, your institution is invited to submit an official statement. The statement may be linked to the PDS from your institution's website or the Commission may include a web reference to your institution's website.

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 Nassau Community College. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Christy L. Faison, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George A. Pruitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

George A. Pruitt, Ph.D.  
Chair

c: Chancellor, State University of New York System Administration



## MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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### STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

#### NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One Education Drive

Garden City, NY 11530

Phone: (516) 572-7205; Fax: (516) 572-8118

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

**Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Thomas P. Dolan, Interim President  
**System:** State University of New York System Administration  
Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor  
State University Plaza  
Albany, NY 12246  
Phone: (518) 320-1355; Fax: (518) 320-1560

#### INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

**Enrollment (Headcount):** 21456 Undergraduate  
**Control:** Public  
**Affiliation:** Government-State Systems - State University of New York  
**2015 Carnegie Classification:** Associate's Colleges - High Transfer-High Traditional  
**Approved Degree Levels:** Postsecondary Award/Cert/Diploma ( $\geq 1$  year,  $< 2$  years), Associate's;

**Distance Education Programs:** Fully Approved

**Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education:** Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. ; American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar ; American Board of Funeral Service Education, Committee on Accreditation ; American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education ; National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation,

**Other Accreditors:** Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting; American Health Information Management Association; Association of Food and Nutrition Service Professionals; Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care; Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.; Federal Communications Commission; Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, New York State Department of Health; National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science; New York State Department of Education

**Instructional Locations**

**Branch Campuses:** None

**Additional Locations:** None

**Other Instructional Sites:** GEICO Insurance Company, Woodbury, NY; Long Beach Public Library, Long Beach, NY.

**ACCREDITATION INFORMATION**

**Status:** Member since 1967

**Last Reaffirmed:** June 23, 2011

**Most Recent Commission Action:**

June 23, 2016: To place the institution on probation due to insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), Standard 6 (Integrity), Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment), and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To request a monitoring report, due November 1, 2016, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14, including but not limited to (1) long-range planning goals and objectives that link academic, facilities, technology, and enrollment management planning to institutional mission and goals (Standard 2); (2) systematic processes for financial planning and budgeting that assess the utilization and allocation of resources (Standard 3); (3) a well-defined system of collegial governance that includes a) procedures for periodic assessment of the governing body, b) a process for orienting new members and for providing updates for current members on the duties and responsibilities of the governing board, and c) defined governance responsibilities of faculty and administration (Standard 4); (4) assessment of the effectiveness of administrative structures, services, roles, and responsibilities (Standard 5); (5) clear evidence of institutional ethics including a) adherence to the Commission's policy on Political Intervention in Education, b) an institutional climate that fosters respect among students, faculty, staff and administration, c) fair and impartial practices in hiring employees, d) effective policies and procedures for tracking and resolving student complaints, and e) assurance of due process in student discipline policies and procedures (Standard 6); (6) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process to evaluate and improve the total range of programs and services (Standard 7); and (7) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process, that makes use of both direct and indirect measures, to evaluate and improve

teaching and learning in all programs, including general education (Standard 14). A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. The date of the next accreditation review will be established when accreditation is reaffirmed.

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

- June 23, 2011: To accept the monitoring report and to note the recent visit by the Commission's representatives. To remove the warning, reaffirm accreditation and request a progress report, due by October 1, 2012, documenting progress in the implementation of a comprehensive, organized and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness with evidence of the use of student learning outcomes assessment information in the planning process (Standards 7 & 14). The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.
- November 15, 2012: To accept the progress report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.

**Next Self-Study Evaluation:** n/a

**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*.



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## **Public Disclosure Statement**

Nassau Community College

June 23, 2016

By the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

This statement has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries, consistent with the Commission's policies on Public Communication in the Accrediting Process, Accreditation Actions, and Standardized Language for Commission Actions on Accreditation. It should be read in conjunction with the *Statement of Accreditation Status* for Nassau Community College. The policies listed above explain what information the Commission makes public regarding its member institutions and what information remains confidential, describe the various accreditation actions the Commission can take, and define the terms used in the Commission's actions.

Nassau Community College, located in Garden City, New York, is a public community college within the State University of New York System. The College has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1967. The College offers Associate's degrees, along with post-secondary certificates and diplomas. A complete listing of Nassau Community's College's Other Instructional Sites can be found in its *Statement of Accreditation Status*. A summary of the most recent Commission actions relative to the institution's accreditation follows.

### **Current Accreditation Status**

On June 23, 2016, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to place the institution on probation due to a lack of evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), Standard 6 (Integrity), Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment), and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). The full text of the Commission's action is provided below. The Commission's accreditation standards are available online at <http://www.msche.org/publications/CHX-2011-WEB.pdf>.

***Nassau Community College remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education while on probation.***

The Commission places an institution on probation when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more accreditation standards and requirements of

affiliation and the non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or substantial that it raises concern about one or more of the following: (1) the adequacy of the education provided by the institution; (2) the institution's capacity to make appropriate improvements in a timely fashion; or (3) the institution's capacity to sustain itself in the long term. Probation is often, but need not always be, preceded by an action of warning. The Commission may place an institution on probation at any time if it determines that the institution has failed to satisfactorily address the Commission's concerns regarding non-compliance with accreditation standards and requirements of affiliation in a prior action. A follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required of an institution on probation to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. A small team visit also is conducted to verify institutional status and progress.

## **Summary of Recent Commission Actions**

At least every ten years, all accredited institutions engage in an 18-24 month period of self-study intended to demonstrate institutional compliance with accreditation standards and to promote institutional improvement. Nassau Community College completed its self-study process and hosted an evaluation team visit during the 2015-16 academic year.

On June 23, 2016, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted as follows:

To place the institution on probation due to a lack of evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), Standard 6 (Integrity), Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment), and Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To request a monitoring report, due March 1, 2017, documenting that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14, including but not limited to (1) long-range planning goals and objectives that link academic, facilities, technology, and enrollment management planning to institutional mission and goals (Standard 2); (2) systematic processes for financial planning and budgeting that assess the utilization and allocation of resources (Standard 3); (3) A well-defined system of collegial governance that includes a) procedures for periodic assessment of the governing body, b) a process for orienting new members and for providing updates for current members on the duties and responsibilities of the governing board, and c) defined governance responsibilities of faculty and administration (Standard 4); (4) assessment of the effectiveness of administrative structures, services, roles, and responsibilities (Standard 5); (5) adherence to the Commission's policy on *Political Intervention in Education* (Standard 6); (6) an institutional climate that fosters respect among students, faculty, staff and administration (Standard 6); (7) fair and impartial practices in hiring employees (Standard 6); (8) effective policies and procedures for tracking and resolving student complaints (Standard 6); (9) assurance of due process in student discipline policies and procedures (Standard 6); (10) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process to evaluate and improve the total range of programs and services (Standard 7); and (11) a documented, organized and sustained assessment process, that makes use of both direct and indirect

measures, to evaluate and improve teaching and learning in all programs, including general education (Standard 14). A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. The date of the next accreditation review will be established when accreditation is reaffirmed.

## **Current Status and Expected Activities**

***Nassau Community College remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education while on probation.***

Following submission of a monitoring report on March 1, 2017, the Commission will conduct a small team visit to assess the institution's compliance with the Commission's standards and policies. Following the on-site visit, a report by the visiting team will be completed. The monitoring report, the small team report and the institutional response to the small team report will be considered by the Committee on Follow-Up Activities, and then by the Commission.

Following review by the Committee on Follow-up Activities, the Commission will take further action, in accordance with the Commission's policy, *Accreditation Actions* (available at <http://www.msche.org/documents/P2.3-AccreditationActions.pdf>) . If, based on the monitoring report and small team report, the Commission determines that Nassau Community College has made appropriate progress in addressing the cited concerns, the Commission may act to remove the probation and reaffirm accreditation. If the Commission determines that progress sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its accreditation standards has not been made, the Commission may take further action as allowed under *Accreditation Actions*.

## **For More Information**

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful in understanding the Commission's actions and Nassau Community College's accreditation status:

*Statement of Accreditation Status* for Nassau Community College ([http://www.msche.org/institutions\\_directory.asp](http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp)) provides factual information about Nassau Community College and the full text of the Commission's recent actions regarding the institution.

*Media Backgrounder* (<http://www.msche.org/documents/MediaBackgrounder2016.pdf>) answers questions about accreditation such as "What is accreditation?" and "What is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?"

*Informing the Public about Accreditation* ([www.chea.org/public\\_info/index.asp](http://www.chea.org/public_info/index.asp)), published by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, provides additional information on the nature and value of accreditation.