



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

2250 Boulevard Luis A. Ferre Aguayo

Suite 564

Ponce, PR 00717-9997

Phone: (787) 841-2000; Fax: (787) 840-4295

www.pucpr.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Jorge Ivan Velez Arocho, President

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment

(Headcount): 8216 Undergraduate; 2799 Graduate

Control: Private (Non-Profit)

Affiliation: Roman Catholic Church

Carnegie Classification: Doctoral/Research

Degrees Offered: Associate's, Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Master's, Doctor's - Professional Practice, Doctor's - Research/Scholarship;

Distance Education Programs: No

Accreditors Approved by U.S. Secretary of Education: American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar; National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; New York State Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Education

Other Accreditors: Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education (CEPR); Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE); Council on Social Work Education; National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS); Council on Rehabilitation Education, Inc. (CORE)

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico - Arecibo Campus, Arecibo, PR; Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez Campus, Mayaguez, PR

Additional Locations: Bayamon Central University, Bayamon, PR; Biotechnology and Agrobiotechnology Learning and Research Center (CEIBA), Ponce, PR; Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal W, Birmingham, AL; School of Architecture, Ponce, PR; Seminario Mayor Interdiocesano, Ponce, PR; Seminario Santa Maria de los Angeles, San Juan, PR; Veterans Hospital, San Juan, PR

Other Instructional Sites: PUCPR - Coamo Extension, Coamo, PR

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1953

Last Reaffirmed: November 19, 2009

Most Recent Commission Action:

October 28, 2013: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note that the institution has closed its additional locations at (1) Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Carr. 3, Km 142.1, Guayama, PR 00785; and (2) Baxter Pharmaceutical, Carr. 3, Km 142.5, Guayama, PR 00784. To remove these additional locations from the institution's accreditation. To note that the supplemental information report, due September 19, 2013, has been received and will be acted on by the Commission at its November meeting. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

- November 19, 2009: To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report due October 1, 2011 documenting (1) implementation of a comprehensive institutional strategic plan that links long-range planning to decision-making and budgeting processes, including the integration into the plan of all the functional units (Standard 2); and (2) evidence of direct methods of assessment of student learning at the institutional and program level(s), including evidence that assessment results are used to improve teaching and learning (Standard 14). To further request that the next self-study clarify the relationship of the Ponce campus with the Arecibo and Mayaguez campuses, including planning processes (Standard 2), budgeting, including the ability to provide separate audited financial statements for the Ponce Campus (Standard 3), and governance structures between the campuses (Standard 4). The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.
- June 28, 2011: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to approve the accreditation of Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico as a single institution, the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, with three campuses. The main campus is the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2250 Las Americas Avenue, Suite 564, Ponce, PR 00717-9997; the other two campuses are branch campuses at Bo. Santana Carr. 662 Km. 2.03, Arecibo, PR 00614-4045 and 482 Calle Post S., Mayaguez, PR 00681. The next evaluation visit is 2013-2014.
- July 20, 2011: To acknowledge receipt of notification from the institution that it has changed the name of the additional location at Carr. 3km 142.1 Gayama, PR 00785-0208 from Wyeth Pharmaceutical to Pfizer Pharmaceutical.
- November 17, 2011: To accept the monitoring report. To note that the relationship of the Ponce campus with the Arecibo and Mayaguez campuses was clarified through the Substantive Change action by the Commission on June 28, 2011. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.
- May 1, 2012: To include the additional location at the Biotechnology and Agrobiotechnology Learning and Research Center (CEIBA), Lot #25 Sabanetas Industrial Park, Ponce, PR 00717, within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.
- May 1, 2012: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request, to note the institution's decision to close its additional location at the Guayama Extension, Calle Palmer 5 Sur, Guayama, PR 00784, and to remove the location from the

scope of the institution's accreditation.

August 20, 2013: To request a supplemental information report, due September 19, 2013, addressing the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accreditation action of July 11-12, 2013. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2013 - 2014

Next Periodic Review Report: 2019

Date Printed: November 5, 2013

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 - Yes or No indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer one or more degree or certificate/diploma programs for which students could meet 50% or more of their requirements by taking distance education courses.

EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

An institution's accreditation continues unless it is explicitly suspended or removed. In addition to reviewing the institution's accreditation status at least every 5 years, actions are taken for substantive changes (such as a new degree or geographic site, or a change of ownership) or when other events occur that require review for continued compliance. Any type of report or visit required by the Commission is reviewed and voted on by the Commission after it is completed.

In increasing order of seriousness, a report by an institution to the Commission may be accepted, acknowledged, or rejected.

Levels of Actions:

Grant or Re-Affirm Accreditation without follow-up

Defer a decision on initial accreditation: The institution shows promise but the evaluation team has identified issues of concern and recommends that the institution be given a specified time period to address those concerns.

Postpone a decision on (reaffirmation of) accreditation: The Commission has determined that there is insufficient information to substantiate institutional compliance with one or more standards.

Continue accreditation: A delay of up to one year may be granted to ensure a current and accurate representation of the institution or in the event of circumstances beyond the institution's control (natural disaster, U.S. State Department travel warnings, etc.)

Recommendations to be addressed in the next Periodic Review Report: Suggestions for improvement are given, but no follow-up is needed for compliance.

Supplemental Information Report: This is required when a decision is postponed and are intended only to allow the institution to provide further information, not to give the institution time to formulate plans or initiate remedial action.

Progress report: The Commission needs assurance that the institution is carrying out activities that were planned or were being implemented at the time of a report or on-site visit.

Monitoring report: There is a potential for the institution to become non-compliant with MSCHE standards; issues are more complex or more numerous; or issues require a substantive, detailed report. A visit may or may not be required.

Warning: The Commission acts to Warn an institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy when the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and a follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. Warning indicates that the Commission believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity to make appropriate improvements within a reasonable period of time and the institution has the capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation: The Commission places an institution on Probation when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and that the non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or acute 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 or Postponement. If the Commission had previously postponed a decision or placed the institution on Warning, the Commission may place the institution on Probation if it determines that the institution has failed to address satisfactorily the Commission's concerns in the prior action of postponement or warning regarding compliance with Commission standards. This action is accompanied by a request for a monitoring report, and a special visit follows. Probation may, but need not always, precede an action of Show Cause.

Suspend accreditation: Accreditation has been Continued for one year and an appropriate evaluation is not possible. This is a procedural action that would result in Removal of Accreditation if accreditation cannot be reaffirmed within the period of suspension.

Show cause why the institution's accreditation should not be removed: The institution is required to present its case for accreditation by means of a substantive report and/or an on-site evaluation. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

Remove accreditation. If the institution appeals this action, its accreditation remains in effect until the appeal is completed.

Other actions are described in the Commission policy, "Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation."