

## **Report from the Accrediting Commission February 17, 2023**

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (the Commission) met on January 20, 2023. This report summarizes the accreditation actions taken by the Accrediting Commission in accordance with its procedure for Notification and Information Sharing (Section XV.A., E., and F.), Part Two, Processes and Procedures, *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*. In addition, the Report provides notice of changes to the DEAC fees, an update to the Processes and Procedures section of the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*, and appointment of the DEAC Executive Committee.

### **Initial Accreditation**

The Commission took action to grant initial accreditation to the following institutions.

#### **Agora University**

**Founded 2012**

Fr. Michael Sorial, President  
7406 Alban Station Court, Suite B207  
Springfield, Virginia 22150

[www.agora.ac](http://www.agora.ac)

[askagora@agora.ac](mailto:askagora@agora.ac)

(866)462-4672

Accredited Programs

#### **Degrees**

- Master of Theology in Orthodox Theology
- Master of Theological Studies in the Christian East and the Contemporary World

The institution is accredited through January 2026.

#### **Nexford University**

**Founded 2017**

Mr. Fad Al Tarzi, Chief Executive Officer  
1140 Third Street, NE, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20002

[www.nexford.org](http://www.nexford.org)

[help@nexford.org](mailto:help@nexford.org)

(202)381-7766

Accredited programs

#### **Degrees**

- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Doing Business Across Emerging Markets
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Digital Transformation
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in 360' Marketing

- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Building a Tech Startup
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Product Management
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Business Analytics
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Intro to AI & the Future of Automation
- Bachelor of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Supply Chain & E-Commerce
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration w/ Specialization in AI & the Future of Automation
- Master of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Sustainability
- Master of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Managing Hyperconnectivity
- Master of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Doing Business Across the World
- Master of Business Administration w/ Specialization in Enabling E-Commerce

#### **Advanced Certificates**

- Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- Global Business
- Global Issues

#### **Intermediate Certificates**

- 360' Marketing
- Building a Tech Start-Up
- Business Analytics
- Digital Transformation
- Doing Business Across Emerging Markets
- Intro to AI and the Future of Automation
- Product Management
- Supply Chain & E-Commerce

The institution is accredited through January 2026.

#### **United Medical Institute**

Dr. Inna Lisker, President

5750 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 105

Citrus Heights, California 95610

[www.unitedmedicalinstitute.com](http://www.unitedmedicalinstitute.com)

[info@unitedmedicalinstitute.com](mailto:info@unitedmedicalinstitute.com)

(949)510-5892

Accredited Programs

#### **Nondegree**

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The institution is accredited through January 2026.

**Founded 2006**

## Renewal of Accreditation

The Commission took action to renew the accreditation of the following institutions.

### California Miramar University

**Founded 2005**

Dr. Chitpasong Vazquez, President  
3550 Camino Del Rio North  
San Diego, CA 92108

The institution also includes a learning site at 1720 Walnut Avenue, La Puente, California 91744.

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

[info@calmu.edu](mailto:info@calmu.edu)

(858)653-3000

Accredited Programs

#### Degrees

- Associate of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Computer Information Systems
- Doctor of Business Administration

The institution is accredited through June 2026.

### Harrison Middleton University

**Founded 1998**

Dr. Michael Curd, Chief Executive Officer  
3345 South Rural Road  
Tempe, Arizona 85282

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

[information@hmu.edu](mailto:information@hmu.edu)

(877)248-6742

Accredited Programs

#### Degrees

- Master of Arts
- Doctor of Arts
- Doctor of Education

The institution is accredited through January 2028.

### Holmes Institute

**Founded 1972**

Dr. C.C. Coltrain, President  
573 Park Point Drive  
Golden, Colorado 80401

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

[ccoltrain@homesinstitute.edu](mailto:ccoltrain@homesinstitute.edu)

(720)279-8992

Accredited Programs

**Degree**

- Master of Consciousness Studies

The institution is accredited through January 2028.

**Viridis Graduate Institute**

**Founded 2011**

Dr. Lori Pye, President  
3345 South Rural Road  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
<https://Viridis.edu>  
[viridis@viridis.edu](mailto:viridis@viridis.edu)  
(805)889-0169

Accredited Programs

Degrees

- Master of Arts in Social Sciences with Emphasis in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities
- Doctor of Arts in Ecopsychology and Environmental Humanities

The institution is accredited through June 2027.

**William Carey International University**

**Founded 1977**

Dr. Paul Cornelius, President  
1010 East Union Street, Suite 110  
Pasadena, CA 91106  
[www.wciu.edu](http://www.wciu.edu)  
[info@wciu.edu](mailto:info@wciu.edu)  
(626)398-2222

Accredited Programs

**Degrees**

- Master of Arts in Development Studies
- Master of Arts in Transformational Urban Leadership

The institution is accredited through January 2028.

**Teach-Out Plan**

The Commission took action to accept a report on a continuing teach-out plan from the following institution.

**Shiloh University**

**Founded 2006**

Dr. Mark Glenn, President  
316 North Cody Road, Le Claire, IA 52753.

Shiloh University submitted a teach-out plan in accordance with DEAC procedures. The Commission approved the teach-out plan; the institution will remain accredited through December 31, 2023 while the current students complete their programs.

### **Vacate the Show Cause Directive**

The Commission acted to vacate the February 28, 2022 Show Cause directive pertaining to the following institution:

#### **Citizens' High School**

**Founded 1981**

Mr. Jim Etters, President  
1590 Island Lane, Suite 44,  
Fleming Island, FL 32002

### **Voluntary Withdrawal from Accreditation**

The following institution voluntarily withdrew from accreditation, effective February 13, 2023.

#### **Columbia Southern University**

**Founded 1993**

Mr. Ken Styron, Chief Executive Officer  
21982 University Lane  
Orange Beach, AL 36561

### **Staff Follow-up Visits**

The DEAC conducted staff visits in accordance with guidance from the U. S. Department of Education that requires recognized accrediting agencies to conduct a limited in-person site visit as soon as practicable following a decision to grant accreditation that is based upon a record that includes a virtual site visit.<sup>1</sup> The Commission reviewed staff visit reports and voted to accept reports on the following institutions.

- **American Denturist College**, 145 East 12th Alley, Eugene, OR 97401
- **Hondros College Of Business**, 4140 Executive Parkway, Westerville, OH 43081
- **Shiloh University** 316 North Cody Road, Le Claire, IA 52753

### **Substantive Changes**

#### **Change of Location**

The Commission took action to confirm changes of location for the following institutions. The current approved addresses are shown below.

- **Dunlap-Stone University**, 16165 North 83rd Avenue, Suite 200 Peoria, AZ 85382
- **Patten University**, 2433 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601
- **Shiloh University**, 316 North Cody Road, Le Claire, IA 52753

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Register: Federal Student Aid Programs \(December 11, 2020\)](#)

### Change of Name

The Commission affirmed a change of name for the following institution.

- **Patten University**, 2433 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601  
American Graduate University changed its name to Patten University, effective July 29, 2022.

### Change in Core Mission

The Commission affirmed a change in core mission for the following institution.

- **Patten University**, 2433 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601.  
The institution's mission is approved as follows:  
*The mission of Patten University is to develop, inspire, and empower leaders to effect global and community transformation by delivering accessible, rigorous, and practical undergraduate and graduate distance education in the areas of Christian ministry, business, leadership, management, and technology.*

### Change of Ownership

The Commission took action to confirm a change of ownership for the following institution.

- **Patten University**, 2433 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601. Patten University was acquired by the Patten Educational Foundation (PEF) on May 2, 2022. PEF is a California nonprofit corporation. AGU, LLC, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of PEF.

### In-Residence Component

The Commission took action to confirm in-residence components for the following institutions.

- **American National University**, 1813 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153. The in-residence components are offered at 1813 East Main Street. Salem, VA 24153.
- **Chi University**, 9650 West Highway 318, Reddick, FL 32686. The in-residence components are offered at 9650 West Highway 318, Reddick, FL 32686
- **University of Fairfax**, 1813 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153. The in-residence components are offered at 1813 East Main Street. Salem, VA 24153.
- **Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential**, N7698 County Highway H, Elkhorn, WI, 53121.<sup>2</sup> The in-residence components are offered at N7698 County Highway H, Elkhorn, WI, 53121.

### Approval of New Programs

The Commission affirmed the approval of the following new programs.

- **Abraham Lincoln University**, 100 W. Broadway, Suite 600, Glendale, CA 91210  
Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies
- **American College of Healthcare Science**, 5005 South Macadam Avenue, Portland, OR 97238

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<sup>2</sup> Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential has a site in Illinois that operates under the DBA, Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential.

Doctor of Science in Integrative Health

- **City Vision University**, 3101 Troost Avenue, Suite 200, Kansas City , MO 64109  
Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and Leadership
- **Lakewood University**, 2231 North Taylor Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44112  
Medical Coding & Administrative Medical Assistant Diploma  
Medical Billing & Administrative Medical Assistant Diploma  
Pharmacy Technician & Medical Coding Diploma  
Pharmacy Technician & Administrative Medical Assistant Diploma  
Pharmacy Technician & Medical Billing Diploma  
Paralegal & Mediation Diploma  
Paralegal & Criminal Justice Diploma  
Criminal Justice & Mediation Diploma  
Medical Billing & Medical Coding Diploma
- **The Art of Education University**, 518 Main Street, Suite A, Osage, IA 50461.  
Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
- **University of Fairfax**, 1813 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153  
Bachelor of Science in Network Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Network Administration and Cybersecurity  
Master of Science in Information Technology  
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

**Appointments to the DEAC Board of Directors**

The Commission voted to appoint the following individuals as public members of the board to terms that begin on April 1, 2023 and end on March 31, 2026.

- **Dr. Peter Smith**

Peter Smith recently retired from the University of Maryland Global Campus where he served as a professor of innovative practices in higher education. He has served as a Vermont State Senator, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, and a U.S. Congressman. He has been the founding president of three higher education institutions: the Community College of Vermont, California State University—Monterey Bay, and Open College @ Kaplan University. He has also served as dean of George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development, executive director of the U.S. Commission on Responsibilities for Funding Post-Secondary Education, and assistant director general for Education of UNESCO. He has written several books on higher education. Smith earned a BA in History from Princeton University and a MAT and EdD from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

- **Dr. Marcia Ditmyer**

Marcia Ditmyer is dean of the College for Health and Human Services at Saginaw Valley University (SVSU) in Saginaw, Michigan. She came to SVSU after serving as the associate dean for education and professor in residence with Emerita at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), School of Dental Medicine, where she provided leadership and assumed oversight for all educational programs and learning environments within the school. Dr. Ditmyer also served as vice president of the Academy for Advancing Leadership (AAL) from 2014 to 2016 and has remained as a senior consultant since 2016. In this role, she developed and conducted customized leadership and professional development training programs, provided institutional effectiveness and accreditation guidance, and implemented workforce and feasibility planning studies. As a Michigan native, Ditmyer received an MBA from Central Michigan University, an MS from California College for Health Sciences, and a PhD from the University of Toledo. Dr. Ditmyer is an active subject specialist and education standards evaluator for DEAC.

#### **Appointments to the DEAC Executive Committee**

The Commission appointed the following members to the Executive Committee:

Dr. Wanda Nitsch, Chair (public member)

Ms. Traci Lee, Vice-Chair (institution member)

Mr. Michael Harter, Treasurer (public member)

Mr. Stephen Haas, Member-at-Large (institution member)

#### **Change to DEAC Accreditation Fees**

The Commission voted to implement changes to certain DEAC accreditation fees. The changes are effective April 1, 2023 and are available for review on the DEAC website.