



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

November 17, 2017

Dr. James Helis
Superintendent
United States Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699

Dear Dr. Helis:

At its session on November 16, 2017, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To accept the monitoring report and to note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To remove the warning because the institution is now in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal) and Requirement of Affiliation 7 (Institutional Planning), and to reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report due September 1, 2018 demonstrating (1) sustainability of institutional and unit level goals that are clearly stated, assessed appropriately, linked to mission and goal achievement, and further development of organized and systematic assessments which evaluate the extent of student achievement of institutional and program level goals (Standard V); and (2) documentation of existing and future assessment practices and the use the assessment results in the planning and resource allocation processes (Standard VI). A small team visit may follow submission of the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2024–2025.

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.

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 Commission policy, 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 United States Merchant Marine Academy. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Idna M. Corbett, Vice President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Wirt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary L. Wirt, Ed.D.
Chair



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

300 Steamboat Road

Kings Point, NY 11024-1699

Phone: (516) 726-5800; Fax: (516) 773-5509

www.usmma.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. James Helis, Superintendent

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 904 Undergraduate ; 23 Graduate

Control: Public

Affiliation: Government-Federal - None

2015 Carnegie Classification: Baccalaureate Colleges - Diverse Fields

Approved Degree Levels: Bachelor's, Master's;

Distance Education Programs: Approved (Master of Marine Engineering)

Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education:

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: None

Other Instructional Sites: None

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1949

Last Reaffirmed: November 16, 2017

Most Recent Commission Action:

November 16, 2017: To accept the monitoring report and to note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To remove the warning because the institution is now in compliance with Standard 2 (Planning, Resource

Allocation, and Institutional Renewal) and Requirement of Affiliation 7 (Institutional Planning), and to reaffirm accreditation. To request a monitoring report due September 1, 2018 demonstrating (1) sustainability of institutional and unit level goals that are clearly stated, assessed appropriately, linked to mission and goal achievement, and further development of organized and systematic assessments which evaluate the extent of student achievement of institutional and program level goals (Standard V); and (2) documentation of existing and future assessment practices and the use the assessment results in the planning and resource allocation processes (Standard VI). A small team visit may follow submission of the monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2024–2025.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

- November 17, 2011: To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2015-2016.
- June 23, 2016: To warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 7 (Institutional Planning), Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), and Standard 9 (Student Support Services). To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To request a monitoring report, due March 1, 2017, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 7 and Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9, including but not limited to evidence of (1) institutional planning that (a) integrates plans for academic, personnel, information resources and technologies, learning resources, and financial development; (b) includes goals and objectives, both institution-wide and for all individual units, that are clearly stated, reflect conclusions drawn from assessment results, are linked to mission and goal achievement, and are used for planning and resource allocation at the institutional and unit levels; and (c) includes planning and improvement processes that are clearly communicated, provide for constituent participation, and incorporate the use of assessment results; (Requirement of Affiliation 7 and Standard 2); (2) resource allocation procedures that include (a) strategies to measure and assess the level of, and efficient utilization of, institutional resources required to support the institution's mission and goals; (b) rational and consistent policies and procedures in place to determine allocation of assets; (c) a financial planning and budgeting process that provides for an annual budget and multi-year budget projections, both institution-wide and among departments; utilizes planning and assessment documents; and addresses resource acquisition

and allocation for the institution; and (d) adequate institutional controls to deal with financial, administrative and auxiliary operations (Standard 3); (3) a governance structure that includes an active governing body with sufficient autonomy to assure institutional integrity and to fulfill its responsibilities of policy and resource development, consistent with the mission of the institution (Standard 4); (4) an administration characterized by (a) a chief executive whose primary responsibility is to lead the institution toward the achievement of its goals and with responsibility for administration of the institution; (b) administrative leaders with appropriate skills, degrees and training to carry out their responsibilities and functions; (c) qualified staffing appropriate to the goals, type, size, and complexity of the institution; and (d) adequate information and decision-making systems to support the work of administrative leaders (Standard 5); and (5) steps taken to build a climate of mutual trust and respect on campus and during the Sea Year (Standard 9). To further request that the monitoring report also document (6) further development and implementation of an organized and sustained institutional assessment process, including evidence that assessment results are shared and discussed with appropriate constituents and used in planning, resource allocation, and renewal at all levels (Standard 7). 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.

November 17, 2016: To note the visit by the Commission's representative. To remind the institution of the Commission's action of June 23, 2016, warning the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that it is currently in compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 7 (Institutional Planning), Standard 2 (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Renewal), Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), and Standard 9 (Student Support Services). To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To remind the institution of the monitoring report due March 1, 2017. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the institution will return to its established evaluation schedule.

June 22, 2017: To accept the monitoring report and to note the visit by the Commission's representatives. To note that the institution is now in compliance with Standard 3 (Institutional Resources), Standard 4 (Leadership and Governance), Standard 5 (Administration), and Standard 9 (Student Support Services). To continue to warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that it is in compliance with Requirement of Affiliation 7 (Institutional Planning) and Standard 2 (Planning,

Resources, and Institutional Renewal). To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To request a monitoring report, due September 1, 2017, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Standard 2 and Requirement of Affiliation 7, including but not limited to evidence of resource allocation decisions that are directly linked to mission and goal achievement at the institutional and unit level, and further development and implementation of an organized and sustained institutional assessment process, including evidence that assessment results are used to inform decision-making (Standard 2; Requirement of Affiliation 7). A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2024-2025.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2024 - 2025

Date Printed: November 17, 2017

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*.