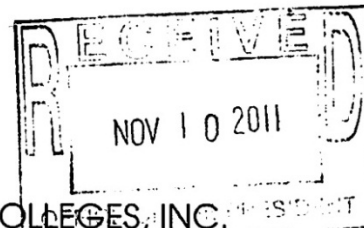




Founded in 1885



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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November 7, 2011

Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
President
Naugatuck Valley Community College
Kinney Hall, Room K703B
750 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT 06708-3089

Dear President De Filippis:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on September 23, 2011, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Naugatuck Valley Community College regarding its plans to offer distance education programming and took the following action:

that the report on distance education submitted by Naugatuck Valley Community College be accepted, and the proposed distance education programming be included within the institution's accreditation, with an effective date of September 23, 2011;

that approval for distance education be limited to the Associate of Science in General Studies and Associate of Science in Liberal Arts programs, and the College be reminded that plans to offer additional programs for which 50% or more of the credits can be earned through distance education need to be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to implementation;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2012 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, the self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2012 evaluation give emphasis to the institution's continued success in implementing programs in the online environment.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) was accepted and the distance education programming encompassed within the institution's accreditation because the Commission finds the activity to be substantially in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation* and relevant Commission policies.

Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis

November 7, 2011

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The Commission understands that students enrolled in NVCC's A.S. in General Studies and A.S. in Liberal Arts programs can earn at least 50% of the credits toward their degree through online courses. We are pleased to learn that direct administrative oversight of online programming is provided by the Director of Distance Learning, who reports to the Dean of Academic Affairs, and that the programs are supported by a full-time Educational Technology specialist. We note with favor that, as a member of the Distance Learning Council, NVCC works with the other Connecticut community colleges on various matters related to educational technology including e-tutoring, pedagogical technology, software and Blackboard. We are gratified to learn that the College offers an orientation program to students interested in taking distance learning courses and that faculty who teach online classes are required to participate in a training program before doing so. In addition, the College offers appropriate access to instructional, library and technological support, including access to all major databases through the Connecticut College online portal, my CommNet.

Naugatuck Valley Community College's approval for distance education is limited to the programs listed above because the College lacks extensive experience offering programs for which 50% or more of the credits can be earned online. It is typically the case that before granting general approval to offer programs for which 50% or more of the credits can be completed entirely online, the Commission expects to see developed capacity for this learning modality and success with the initial programs. We remind you that any plans to offer additional online programs will need to be reviewed by the Commission, consistent with our policy on Substantive Change.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2012 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. In addition to the matters address in all self-studies, we look forward, in Fall2012, to receiving an update on the College's continued success in offering programs in the online environment and in assuring that such programs are "integral parts of the institution and maintain the same academic standards as courses and programs offered on campus" (4.40).

The Commission expressed appreciatin for the report submitted by Naugatuck Valley Community College and hopes its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. We appreciate your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Louise Berry. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with Commission policy.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, Director of the Commission.

Sincerely,

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Mary Jo Maydew

MJM/dmc
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Louise Berry



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
209 Burlington Road, Bedford, MA 01730
Voice: (781) 271-0022 Fax: (781) 271-0950 Web: <http://cihe.neasc.org>

Public Disclosure of Information About Affiliated Institutions

The following policy governs the release of information regarding the status of affiliated colleges and universities by institutions and by the Commission.

1. Release of Information by Institutions Regarding Their Accreditation Following Commission Action

At the conclusion of the evaluation process institutions are encouraged to make publicly available information about their accreditation status including the findings of team reports and any obligations or requirements established by Commission action, as well as any plans to address stated concerns. Because of the potential to be misleading, institutions are asked not to publish or otherwise disseminate excerpts from these materials.

While the Commission does not release copies of self-studies, progress reports, evaluation reports, or other documents related to the accreditation of individual institutions, it believes it to be good practice for institutions to make these materials available, in their entirety, after notification of Commission action.

While the Commission does not initiate public release of information on actions of show cause or deferral, if such information is released by the institution in question, the Commission will respond to related inquiries.

If an institution releases or otherwise disseminates information which misrepresents or distorts its accreditation status, the institution will be notified and asked to take corrective action publicly correcting any misleading information it may have disseminated, including but not limited to the accreditation status of the institution, the contents of evaluation reports, and the Commission actions with respect to the institution. Should it fail to do so, the New England Association, acting through its Chief Executive Officer, will release a public statement in such form and content as it deems desirable providing correct information.

The shorter statement that an institution may choose for announcing its accredited status follows:

_____ College (University) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road, Suite 201
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
(781) 271-0022
E-Mail: cihe@neasc.org

Accreditation by the New England Association has reference to the institution as a whole. Therefore, statements like "fully accredited" or "this program is accredited by the New England Association" or "this degree is accredited by the New England Association" are incorrect and should not be used.

3. Published Statement on Candidate Status

An institution granted Candidate for Accreditation status must use the following statement whenever it makes reference to its affiliation with the New England Association:

_____ College (University) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

Candidacy is not accreditation nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

Inquiries regarding the status of an institution affiliated with the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of the college or university. Individuals may also contact:

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road, Suite 201
Bedford, MA 01730-1433 (781)
271-0022
E-Mail: cihe@neasc.org

The Commission recognizes that, to be fully understood, information about the accredited status of institutions must be placed within the context of the policies and procedures of the Commission and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In responding to inquiries, the Commission will endeavor to do so.

5. Public Disclosure of Institutional Actions

Within 30 days after the action on accreditation status is taken, the Commission will notify the Secretary of Education, New England state higher education officers, appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public. Such actions include:

A final decision to:

Grant candidacy or accreditation

Continue an institution in accreditation

Deny or terminate the accreditation of an institution

Place an institution on probation

Approve substantive change (e.g., moving to a higher degree level)

A decision by an accredited or candidate institution to voluntarily withdraw from affiliation with the Commission.

November 1998

September 2001

April 2010

September 2011