



October 12, 2018

Michele Starkey
Associate Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer
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Los Angeles, CA 90049

Dear Michele,

The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) has completed its Mid-Cycle Review of Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU). The purpose of the Mid-Cycle Review is to "identify problems with an institution's ...continued compliance with agency standards" while "tak[ing] into account institutional ... strengths and stability" (Code of Federal Regulations, §602.19(b)).

Areas examined. The Mid-Cycle Review focuses on factors related to the WSCUC Standards and includes student achievement, enrollment changes, financial indicators, and institutional information. Data are gathered from your institution's annual report and from public sources. Below are the factors examined, the relevant CFR, source of the data, and the reference point for making comparisons.

Factor	CFR	Source of Data	Data Point
4 year graduation rate	1.2	College Navigator	Regional average: 39%
6 year graduation rate	1.2	College Navigator	Regional average: 59% Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions: minimum 25%
6 year graduation rate disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender	2.10	College Navigator	No specified data point
Enrollment changes	3.4	WSCUC Annual Report	WSCUC practice: 20% increase or decrease
Pell grant recipients	1.4	College Navigator	Regional average: 39%
Median graduate borrower debt	1.6	College Navigator	Regional average: \$21,522
Student default rate	1.6, 3.4	College Navigator	California Student Aid Commission: less than 15.5%
Composite score	3.4	Federal Student Aid	US Department of Education: minimum 1.5
Student/faculty ratio	2.1, 3.1	College Navigator	No specified data point
Faculty/degree ratio	2.1, 3.1	Calculated from College Navigator	WSCUC practice: minimum 1

A review is also conducted of the institution website’s student achievement link, submitted in the annual report, to determine whether:

- student achievement data are easy to find
- data include:
 - retention rates, aggregated and disaggregated and for multiple years
 - graduation rates, aggregated and disaggregated and for multiple years
 - brief and focused evidence of student learning (i.e., typically learning outcomes assessment results)
- data and evidence are displayed in a user-friendly way

A review is made of the institution’s updated Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators (IEEI) to determine:

- whether learning outcomes have been developed (for programs and general education)
- where outcomes are published, what evidence is used to assess outcomes, who interprets results and what the process is, and how findings are used
- when was/is the date of each program’s Program Review

Results. Below are the findings from [institution]’s review, beginning with a summary of the basic data points:

Data Point	Source	CFR	Region Mean Or Data Point	Institution Value
4-year graduation rate	College Navigator	1.2	39%	46%
6-year graduation rate	College Navigator	1.2	59%	70%
Enrollment changes	WSCUC Annual Report	3.4	No more than 20% increase or decrease	4.33%; 2.8%; -6.5%
Percent of students receiving Pell Grants	College Navigator	1.4	39%	57%
Median graduate borrower debt	College Scorecard	1.6	\$21,522	\$25,000
Cohort default rate	College Navigator	1.6; 3.4	Less than 15.5%	4%
Composite score	Federal Student Aid	3.4	Minimum of 1.5	2.5

WSCUC staff notes the following for MSMU:

MSMU is commended for its efforts to make student achievement data public. To make this assessment, staff reviewed the URL provided to WSCUC during annual reporting. The data are readily easy to find on the MSMU website and displayed in a user-friendly way; MSMU clearly articulates expected outcomes and standards of performance for the core competencies and reflects a rigorous evaluation of those outcomes. Retention and graduation data are disaggregated in meaningful ways and reflects multiple years of results.

MSMU’s presentation of employment outcomes and post-MSMU education is particularly impressive. MSMU is commended for the *Flow of Undergraduates by Majors to Employment by Industry* graph and the *Other 4-year Institutions Attended After MSMU* display.

The 70% 6-year graduation rate noted in the grid above was found in the College Navigator for MSMU's fall 2011 entering cohort. A review of MSMU's graduation rate for cohorts entering the university between 2013 and 2016 averages approximately 66%. MSMU's average absolute graduation rate in the WSCUC Graduation Rate Dashboard is 71%. In general, MSMU is doing a good job of graduating students within 150% of a degree program's normative time.

It is important to note that the graduation rate for Hispanic students in the 2011 cohort was 72%, higher than MSMU's overall 6-year rate. At the same time, completion rates for African-American and male students was notably lower than the institution's rate.

It is also important to note that MSMU student enrollment has declined by over 10% since 2014-2015.

According to the IEEI, MSMU plans to re-write the institution's institutional learning outcomes by fall 2018. MSMU also plans to institute a new General Education program in fall 2018. MSMU should report on the progress of these two initiatives in the institutional report for the comprehensive review. The report should also include an update on programs that, according to the IEEI, are not experiencing a productive impact from assessment because of a lack of following through (including Nursing, American Studies, Media and Social Justice, Gerontology, MS in Health Policy and Management, and the MFA in Film and TV).

The comprehensive review team will be interested in exploring the status of program review at MSMU. According to the IEEI, 17 programs had program reviews more than 7 years ago; 8 programs had reviews in fall 2012 which means their next reviews should happen by the time of the OSR and AV.

Next Steps. WSCUC staff did not identify issues with MSMU's continued compliance with WSCUC standards. We updated the accreditation history to reflect this conclusion from the MCR and notified the Commission.

If you have feedback for us regarding your experience of the Mid-Cycle Review process, please share that feedback with me. As always, please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Maloney

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