

February 27, 2025

Dr. Rich Lyons
Chancellor
University of California Berkeley
200 California Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-1500

Dear Chancellor Lyons:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the University of California Berkeley (UCB) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to the University of California Berkeley September 25-27, 2024 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by the University of California Berkeley prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's November 15, 2024 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Oliver O'Reilly, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Catherine Cronquist Browning, Assistant Vice Provost & Chief of Staff, and Sumali Tuchrello, Project/Policy Analyst. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2034 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2034
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 1, 2029 to address all requirements in this letter

Commendations

The Commission commends the University of California Berkeley for the following:

1. The Discovery Trail Blazers program, which promotes curricular innovation, demonstrates faculty dedication, and upholds the institution's commitment to pedagogic excellence.

2. The success of the capital campaign and the institution's determination to generate new revenue streams to support continued institutional excellence.
3. The spirit of collaboration and dedication to shared governance.
4. The responsive institutional research staff, whose enthusiasm for collective effort supports continuous improvement.
5. Evidence of a pervasive positive culture in which faculty and staff exhibit devotion to the university's public mission.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the University of California Berkeley to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Continue the institutionally initiated focus on fully supporting at-risk, disabled, and marginalized student populations to promote equitable access to opportunity. (CFR 2.13)
2. Improve internal communication to foster transparency, augment collaboration and innovation, and support student success and other institutional priorities. (CFR 1.7)
3. Build on the momentum of the Discovery Initiatives' early successes by exploring a sustainable model to ensure access to an immersive experience for every undergraduate student. (CFR 2.1, 2.2, 2.5)
4. Incorporate an analysis of student achievement of Program Learning Outcomes consistently and constructively in the Academic Program Review Self-Studies. (CFR 2.4, 4.1)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that the University of California Berkeley completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, the University of California Berkeley should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of the University of California Berkeley's governing board. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Michael V. Drake, President, University of California. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the University of California Berkeley's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that the University of California Berkeley undertook in preparing for the accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. N. Oberg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher N. Oberg, PhD
Interim President

CNO/mbg

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Catherine Cronquist Browning, ALO
Janet Reilly, Board Chair
Michael V. Drake, President, University of California
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit Team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President