



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

March 5, 2010

Dr. Alan Davis
President
SUNY Empire State College
One Union Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Dear Dr. Davis:

At its session on March 4, 2010, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To reaffirm accreditation and to commend the institution for the quality of the self-study process and report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2015.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Statement of Accreditation Status for your institution. The Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) provides important basic information about the institution and its affiliation with the Commission, and it is made available to the public in the Directory of Members and Candidates on the Commission's website at www.msche.org. Accreditation applies to the institution as detailed in the SAS; institutional information is derived from data provided by the institution through annual reporting and from Commission actions. If any of the institutional information is incorrect, please contact the Commission as soon as possible.

Please check to ensure that published references to your institution's accredited status (catalog, other publications, web page) include the full name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency. Further guidance is provided in the Commission's policy statement *Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status*. If the action for your institution includes preparation of a progress report, monitoring report or supplemental report, please see our policy statement on *Follow-up Reports and Visits*. Both policies can be obtained from our website.

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of SUNY Empire State College. If any further clarification is needed regarding the SAS or other items in this letter, please feel free to contact Dr. Ellie A. Fogarty, Vice President.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Middaugh, Ed.D.
Chair

c: Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York Central Office



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

One Union Avenue

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Phone: (518) 587-2100; Fax: (518) 587-5448

www.esc.edu

Chief Executive Officer:

Dr. Alan Davis, President

System:

State University of New York Central Office

Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor

State University Plaza

Albany, NY 12246

Phone: (518) 443-5313; Fax: (518) 443-5677

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment

(Headcount):

12766 Undergraduate; 848 Graduate

Control:

Public

Affiliation:

State

Carnegie Classification:

Master's - Smaller Programs

Degrees Offered:

Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's

Distance Education Programs:

Yes

Accreditors Approved by U.S. Secretary of Education: n/a

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Empire State College, White Plains, NY; Empire State College, Riverhead, NY; Empire State College, Albany, NY; Empire State College, Brooklyn, NY; Empire State College, New York, NY; Empire State College, Staten Island, NY; Empire State College, Newburgh, NY; Empire State College, Highland, NY; Empire State College, Nanuet, NY; Empire State College, Old Westbury, NY; Empire State College, Rochester, NY; Empire State College, Batavia, NY; Empire State College, Hartsdale, NY; Empire State College, Plattsburgh, NY; Empire State College, East Syracuse, NY; Empire State College, Auburn, NY;

Empire State College, Binghamton, NY; Empire State College, Black River, NY; Empire State College, Ithaca, NY; Empire State College, Utica, NY; Empire State College, Watertown, NY; Empire State College, Latham, NY; Empire State College, Queensbury, NY; Empire State College at Alfred State College, Alfred, NY; Empire State College at Corning/Elmira, Corning, NY; Empire State College at Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY; Empire State College at Fulton Montgomery Community College, Johnstown, NY; Empire State College in Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, NY; Empire State College in Schenectady, Schenectady, NY; Empire State College NYS Office Building, Hauppauge, NY; Liberty High School, New York, NY; Niagara Frontier Center, Cheektowaga, NY; Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Fredonia, NY; Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Jamestown, NY; Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Lockport, NY; Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Olean, NY.

Other Instructional Sites: Albany, Albany, NY; Alfred, Alfred, NY; Athens, Athens, Greece; Auburn, Auburn, NY; Batavia, Batavia, NY; Binghamton, Binghamton, NY; Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY; Canandaigua, Canandaigua, NY; Central New York Center, East Syracuse, NY; Corning/Elmira, Corning, NY; District Council 9 Finishing Trades Institute, Long Island City, NY; Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Fort Drum, Black River, NY; Fredonia, Fredonia, NY; Genesee Valley Center, Rochester, NY; Glens Falls/Queensbury, Queensbury, NY; Hauppauge, Hauppauge, NY; Hudson Valley Center, Hartsdale, NY; Ithaca, Ithaca, NY; Jamestown, Jamestown, NY; Johnstown, Johnstown, NY; Liberty High School, New York, NY; Lockport, Lockport, NY; Long Island Center, Old Westbury, NY; Metropolitan New York Center and Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, New York, NY; Nanuet, Nanuet, NY; Newburgh, Newburgh, NY; Niagara Frontier Center, Cheektowaga, NY; Northeast Center, Albany/Latham, NY; NYC District Council of Carpenters Labor Technical College, New York, NY; NYSUT/UFT Paraprofessional Program - Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY; NYSUT/UFT Paraprofessional Program - Bronx, Bronx, NY; NYSUT/UFT Paraprofessional Program - New York, New York, NY; NYSUT/UFT Paraprofessional Program - Rego Park, Rego Park, NY; NYSUT/UFT Paraprofessional Program - Staten Island, Staten Island, NY; Olean, Olean, NY; Panama, Panama City, Panama; Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY; Prague, Prague, Czech Republic; Riverhead, Riverhead, NY; Saratoga Springs, Saratoga, NY; Schenectady, Schenectady, NY; Staten Island, Staten Island, NY; Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece; Tirana, Tirana, Albania; UA Plumbers Local Union No. 1 Training Center, Long Island City, NY; Utica, Utica, NY; Watertown, Watertown, NY; White Plains - Rochambeau School, White Plains, NY.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1974

Last Reaffirmed: March 4, 2010

Most Recent Commission Action:

March 4, 2010: To reaffirm accreditation and to commend the institution for the quality of the self-study process and report. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2015.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

- November 16, 2005: To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2009-2010.
- June 18, 2009: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to include the following additional locations within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit to three of the locations within six months: (1) Niagara Frontier Center, Apple Tree Business Park, 2875 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227; (2) Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, 112 West Main St., Suite 1, Fredonia, NY 14063; (3) Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Community Services Center, Jamestown Community College, 525 Falconer Street, Jamestown, NY 14701; (4) Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College 80 Main Street, Suite A, Lockport, NY 14094; (5) Niagara Frontier Center of Empire State College, Jamestown Community College - Cattaraugus Campus, 260 North Union Street, Olean, NY 14760; (6) Empire State College, Genesee Valley, 1475 Winton Road North, Rochester, NY 14609; (7) Empire State College at Alfred State College, Alumni House, Alfred, NY 14802; (8) Empire State College, 36 Ellicott Street, Batavia, NY 14020; (9) Empire State College at Finger Lakes Community College, FLCC Honors House 4340 Lakeshore Drive, Canandigua, NY 14424; (10) Empire State College at Corning/Elmira, 318 Park Avenue, Corning, NY 14830; (11) Empire State College, 6333 Route 298, East Syracuse, NY 13057; (12) Empire State College, 197 Franklin Street, Auburn, NY 13021; (13) Empire State College, Fifth Floor, State Office Building, 44 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901; (14) Empire State College Army Education Center, 4300 Camp Hale Road, Fort Drum SUNY Colleges of the North Country, P.O. Box 940, Black River, NY 13612; (15) Empire State College 118 N. Tioga Street, Suite 502, Ithaca, NY 14850; (16) Empire State College, Suite 606, State Office Building, 207 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501; (17) Empire State College, Fourth Floor, State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601; (18) Empire State College, 21 British American Boulevard, Latham, NY 12110; (19) Empire State College, Room 135, Washington Hall, Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, NY 12804; (20) Empire State College at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown, NY 12095; (21) Empire State College, Room 114, Ward Hall, State University of New York, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; (22) Empire State College in Saratoga, 111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; (23) Empire State College in Schenectady, 328 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305; (24) Empire State College, 200 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY 10530; (25) Empire State College, One Washington Center, 5th Floor, Newburgh, NY 12550; (26) Empire State College, Heritage Square, 602 Route 299, Highland, NY 12528; (27) Empire State College, 150 E. Route 59, Nanuet, NY 10954; (28) Empire State College, Trainor House, 223 Stone Hill Road, Old Westbury, NY 11568; (29) Empire State College NYS Office Building, Room 1A11, 250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788; (30) Empire State College, 303 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901;

(31) Empire State College, Room 114, 7 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223; (32) Empire State College, 177 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216; (33) Empire State College, 325 Hudson Street, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10013; (34) Empire State College, 500 Seaview Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305; (35) Liberty High School, 250 W. 18th Street, New York, NY 10011; and (36) Empire State College, 228 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2009-2010.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2019 - 2020

Next Periodic Review Report: 2015

Date Printed: March 5, 2010

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.

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 - Yes or No indicates whether or not the institution has been approved to offer one or more degree or certificate/diploma programs for which students could meet 50% or more of their requirements by taking distance education courses.

EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

An institution's accreditation continues unless it is explicitly suspended or removed. In addition to reviewing the institution's accreditation status at least every 5 years, actions are taken for substantive changes (such as a new degree or geographic site, or a change of ownership) or when other events occur that require review for continued compliance. Any type of report or visit required by the Commission is reviewed and voted on by the Commission after it is completed.

In increasing order of seriousness, a report by an institution to the Commission may be accepted, acknowledged, or rejected.

Levels of Actions:

Grant or Re-Affirm Accreditation without follow-up

Defer a decision on initial accreditation: The institution shows promise but the evaluation team has identified issues of concern and recommends that the institution be given a specified time period to address those concerns.

Postpone a decision on (reaffirmation of) accreditation: The Commission has determined that there is insufficient information to substantiate institutional compliance with one or more standards.

Continue accreditation: A delay of up to one year may be granted to ensure a current and accurate representation of the institution or in the event of circumstances beyond the institution's control (natural disaster, U.S. State Department travel warnings, etc.)

Recommendations to be addressed in the next Periodic Review Report: Suggestions for improvement are given, but no follow-up is needed for compliance.

Supplemental Information Report: This is required when a decision is postponed and are intended only to allow the institution to provide further information, not to give the institution time to formulate plans or initiate remedial action.

Progress letter: The Commission needs assurance that the institution is carrying out activities that were planned or were being implemented at the time of a report or on-site visit.

Monitoring report: There is a potential for the institution to become non-compliant with MSCHE standards; issues are more complex or more numerous; or issues require a substantive, detailed report. A visit may or may not be required.

Warning: The Commission acts to Warn an institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy when the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and a follow-up report, called a monitoring report, is required to demonstrate that the institution has made appropriate improvements to bring itself into compliance. Warning indicates that the Commission believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity to make appropriate improvements within a reasonable period of time and the institution has the capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation: The Commission places an institution on Probation when, in the Commission's judgment, the institution is not in compliance with one or more Commission standards and that the non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or acute that it raises concern about one or more of the following:

1. the adequacy of the education provided by the institution;
2. the institution's capacity to make appropriate improvements in a timely fashion; or
3. the institution's capacity to sustain itself in the long term.

Probation is often, but need not always be, preceded by an action of Warning or Postponement. If the Commission had previously postponed a decision or placed the institution on Warning, the Commission may place the institution on Probation if it determines that the institution has failed to address satisfactorily the Commission's concerns in the prior action of postponement or warning regarding compliance with Commission standards. This action is accompanied by a request for a monitoring report, and a special visit follows. Probation may, but need not always, precede an action of Show Cause.

Suspend accreditation: Accreditation has been Continued for one year and an appropriate evaluation is not possible. This is a procedural action that would result in Removal of Accreditation if accreditation cannot be reaffirmed within the period of suspension.

Show cause why the institution's accreditation should not be removed: The institution is required to present its case for accreditation by means of a substantive report and/or an on-site evaluation. A "Public Disclosure Statement" is issued by the Commission.

Remove accreditation. If the institution appeals this action, its accreditation remains in effect until the appeal is completed.

Other actions are described in the Commission policy, "Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation."