



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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

July 11, 2017

Dr. Vilma E. Colon-Acosta
Chancellor
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Ponce Campus
104 Turpo Industrial Park Road #1
Mercedita, PR 00715-1602

27 DE JUL'17 8:44AM
OFIC. DE LA RECTORA

Dear Dr. Colon-Acosta:

At its session on June 30, 2017, the Executive Committee for Substantive Change of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted:

To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the reclassification of the instructional site at Health Sciences Department, Sabanetas Industrial Park, Building B, Number 239, Lot 29, Ponce, PR 00716 as an additional location and to provisionally include the location within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months of the commencement of operations. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2022-2023.

This action is a substantive change action. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's policy *Accreditation Actions*, which is available on the Commission's website.

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.

Dr. Vilma E. Colon-Acosta – Page 2

Please be assured of the continuing interest of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the well-being of Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Ponce Campus. 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,

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

c: President, Inter American University of Puerto Rico Central Office
Executive Director, Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO-PONCE CAMPUS
104 Turpo Industrial Park Road #1
Mercedita, PR 00715-1602
Phone: (787) 284-1912; Fax: (787) 841-0103
ponce.inter.edu

Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Vilma E. Colon-Acosta, Chancellor

System: Inter American University of Puerto Rico Central Office
Lcdo. Manuel J. Fernos, President
G.P.O Box 36355
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 766-1912; Fax: (787) 766-1982

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Enrollment (Headcount): 4871 Undergraduate ; 421 Graduate

Control: Private (Non-Profit)

Affiliation: Government-State Systems - Inter American University of Puerto Rico

2015 Carnegie Classification: Master's Colleges & Universities - Small Programs

Approved Degree Levels: Postsecondary Award/Cert/Diploma (≥ 1 year, < 2 years), Associate's, Bachelor's, Postbaccalaureate Award/Cert/Diploma, Master's, Doctor's - Research/Scholarship;

Distance Education Programs: Fully Approved

Accreditors Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education:

Instructional Locations

Branch Campuses: None

Additional Locations: Health Sciences Department, Ponce, PR; INTERTEC, Coamo, PR.

Other Instructional Sites: Orlando Cyber Study Center, Orlando, FL.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Status: Member since 1962

Last Reaffirmed: June 27, 2013

Most Recent Commission Action:

June 30, 2017: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the reclassification of the instructional site at Health Sciences Department, Sabanetas Industrial Park, Building B, Number 239, Lot 29, Ponce, PR 00716 as an additional location and to provisionally include the location within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months of the commencement of operations. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2022-2023.

Brief History Since Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

- June 27, 2013: To reaffirm accreditation and to commend the institution for the quality of the self-study process. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.
- October 27, 2014: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To note that the institution has closed its additional location at The Cybernetic Center, Plaza del Caribe Mall, Ponce, PR 00730. To remove this additional location from the institution's accreditation. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.
- April 27, 2015: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to include the Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Instruction in Distance Education within the scope of the institution's accreditation. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.
- February 29, 2016: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request and to include the Doctorate of Philosophy in Second Language Research within the scope of the institution's accreditation to be effective upon receipt of state approval. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.
- May 2, 2016: To acknowledge receipt of the substantive change request. To include the additional location at INTERTEC, Calle Ramon Power, Esq. Calle Jose I. Quinton, Coamo, PR, 00769 within the scope of the institution's accreditation pending a site visit within six months of the commencement of operations. The Commission requires written notification within thirty days of the commencement of operations at this additional location. In the event that operations at the additional location do not commence within one calendar year from the approval of this action, approval will lapse. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2018.
- October 26, 2016: To acknowledge receipt of documentation of approval from the Puerto Rico Counsel on Higher Education and to include the Doctorate of Philosophy in Second Language Research within the scope of the institution's accreditation.
- May 4, 2017: Staff acted on behalf of the Commission to request a supplemental information report, due August 1, 2017, addressing the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)'s recent action.

The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2022-2023.

Next Self-Study Evaluation: 2022 - 2023

Date Printed: July 11, 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*.