



November 21, 2022

Mr. George Nichols III
President and CEO
American College, The (of Financial Services)
630 Allendale Road, Suite 400
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Notification of Non-Compliance Action

Dear Mr. Nichols III:

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on November 17, 2022, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the self-study report. To note that the institution hosted a virtual site visit in lieu of an on-site visit in accordance with the United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 17, 2020. To place the institution on probation and note that the institution's accreditation is in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment), Standard VI (Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement), and Requirements of Affiliation 8, 9, 10, and 11. To note that the institution remains accredited while on probation. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance.

To request a monitoring report due March 1, 2023, demonstrating evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standards V and VI, and Requirements of Affiliation 8, 9, 10, and 11 including but not limited to (1) assessment of student learning and achievement to demonstrate that students have accomplished educational goals consistent with their programs of study (Standard V and Requirement of Affiliation 8); (2) its student learning programs are characterized by coherence and appropriate assessment of student achievement throughout its educational offerings, at both institutional and program levels, with evidence that faculty and appropriate institutional stakeholders have considered and used assessment results to improve teaching and learning (Standard V and Requirement of Affiliation 9); (3) sufficiency of resources to fulfill its mission and goals, to continuously assess and improve its programs and services, and to respond effectively to opportunities and challenges (Standard VI and Requirement of

Affiliation 11); and (4) clearly-stated, aligned, and coherent institutional and unit objectives, with evidence of the implementation of a systematic, organized, and sustained assessment process demonstrating that institutional and unit stakeholders have considered and used assessment results in planning, budgeting, and the improvement of institutional and unit effectiveness (Standard VI and Requirement of Affiliation 10). To request that the monitoring report also include further evidence of an administration of an appropriate size and with relevant experience to assist the Chief Executive Officer in fulfilling his/her roles and responsibilities (Standard VII). To require that the institution complete and submit for approval, by March 1, 2023, a comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation, and include any teach-out agreements that the institution has entered into or intends to enter into with another institution. To direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the monitoring report. To note the visit may also fulfill the verification requirements of the USDE guidelines. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2029-2030.

This action is a non-compliance action. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*. If any of the information contained within the action appears to be factually incorrect, please send an email within 60 calendar days of the date of the action to actions@msche.org.

Pursuant to the Commission's *Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures*, this letter serves as the Commission's official notification of this action. This accreditation action will be publicly available on the Commission's website within 24 hours of informing the institution. In accordance with policy and federal regulation, the Commission provides notification of non-compliance actions to the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate state or other licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution, but no later than 30 days after it takes the action.

Commission policy and procedures allow for the submission of an optional institutional statement, which will be posted on the Commission's website, in response to the above non-compliance action. Any institutional statement must be on institutional letterhead, signed by an authorized representative of the institution, and submitted as a PDF document. Because the institutional statement will be posted publicly, it is important that the institutional statement address the accreditation issue and avoid issues that are not relevant to the action. Hyperlinks are not permitted to be used. The submission of an optional institutional statement must be sent to actions@msche.org within 60 calendar days from the date of the action.

Pursuant to the Commission's *Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures* and federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.26(b), the institution is required to publicly disclose an accurate representation of

its current accreditation phase and accreditation status with the Commission, which you will find on the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) at the Commission's website. The institution is required to publicly disclose non-compliance and adverse actions. The Commission provides procedures and a sample statement for this disclosure in the *Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures* which must be implemented within seven calendar days of this notification where accreditation is referenced on the institution's website and wherever accreditation is referenced in publications.

It is critical for the institution to review and understand the Commission's policies and procedures which will explain the Commission's actions and the institution's accreditation status:

[*Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation*](#)

For questions about the Commission's actions, please contact the institution's assigned Commission staff liaison. Questions from the public about the institution's accreditation phase or accreditation status can be directed to communications@msche.org. For additional information, visit www.msche.org.

Sincerely,



Heather F. Perfetti, J.D., Ed.D.
President