



July 12, 2024

Dr. Sandra Bauman
Dean/CEO
Helena College University of Montana
1115 North Roberts Street
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Dr. Bauman:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 18-21, 2024, concerning the Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Helena College University of Montana.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 4: Spring 2020 Ad Hoc Report - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

Commendations

The Commission commends Helena College University of Montana for:

1. Their robust learning support services provided to students as evidence and validated by feedback provided from students, faculty, and staff.
2. Having quality facilities and equipment used for professional technical programs that appear to be reflective of industry standards.
3. Recruitment and retention of women in trade programs on the Airport Campus.
4. Their connection to their community as evidenced by their relationship to K-12 system, industry via advisory councils, and establishing a new program requested by the local community.
5. Its staff and faculty for their genuine care for student achievement and success, student-centered approach, exceptional dedication, supporting one another, and serving in multiple roles wherever needed.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Helena College University of Montana:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement an institutional-level assessment process that informs operational planning, allowing for effective resource allocation to enhance student learning and achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Expand assessment beyond the course level, to include program and institutional outcomes that evaluate and demonstrate the quality of learning, and use the results to inform continuous improvement of student learning outcomes. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.6;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Widely publish identified disaggregated indicators of student achievement and those of peer institutions, and demonstrate use of the data to inform planning, decision making and allocation of resources. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2;1.D.3)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Widely use the institution's indicators of student achievement to inform, develop, and implement strategies and allocate resources to mitigate perceived gaps in achievement and equity. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.4)

- Recommendation 5: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop, document, and implement structures for decision making that considers feedback from existing governance groups consisting of faculty, staff, administrators, and students. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.4)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Fall 2025
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2026
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2027
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2030
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2031

NWCCU 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. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Dr. Selena Grace, at sgrace@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Mrs. Jessie Pate, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness
Ms. Joyce Dombrowski, BOR Chair
Dr. Tod Treat, Vice President for Instruction, Wenatchee Valley College
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System