



August 5, 2026

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 July 7-10, 2026, concerning the Spring 2026 Ad Hoc Report with Visit of Helena College University of Montana.

Accreditation

Accept the Report

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement

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)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2027
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- 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. Chris Bragg, at cbragg@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Selena M. Grace
President

cc: Mrs. Jessie Pate, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness
Mr. Loren Bough, Chair, Montana Board of Regents
Dr. Jeremiah Shinn, President, University of Montana
Dr. Ali Mageehon, Vice President of Instruction, Southwestern Oregon Community College
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System