



February 3, 2020

President Harlan Patterson  
Bastyr University  
14500 Juanita Drive NE  
Kenmore, WA 98028

Dear President Patterson:

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 January 8-10, 2020, concerning the Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Bastyr University. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

**Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation

**Commendations**

The Commission commends Bastyr University for:

1. Supporting the mission through a difficult transition and for the commitment to healing some of the distress of the past few years. It is clear that administration, staff, and faculty of the locations in San Diego and Kenmore are dedicated to the support of their students, completing tasks that are beyond their job scopes in order to facilitate student success.
2. The facilities at the clinical locations in Seattle and San Diego and the two other campus buildings in San Diego are well-maintained, secure, and conducive to effective, healthful learning and working environments for students, staff, and faculty.
3. Its foresight to develop a Clinical Education Review Board composed of faculty, students, alumni, and providers, with the aim to improve clinical education, patient/client experience and clinical outcomes. The full report was based on a wide assessment review of clinical education programming and interviews with a variety of constituents.
4. The BURI Director's efforts to support and continue research activity despite shrinking resources. The staff are committed and dedicated to the core theme. The key issue may be sustainability. Several grant requests from NIH and private sources are pending and the grant writer for the development office is willing to assist in seeking new funds.

### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance But in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Bastyr University:

4. Create a systematic plan for the university, utilizing the unique considerations of each campus and clinic location, in the areas of finance, physical operations, and technological infrastructure. The evaluation team strongly suggests that consideration be given to current documents, such as the CER Board report, and data implementable at university-operated and community clinics. Assessments of the plans should include outcomes, quantifiable indicators and benchmarks, and timelines (2020 Standards: 2.E.2, 2.I.1).

### **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Bastyr University is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and NWCCU Policy, [Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period](#), the Commission requires that Bastyr University take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Bastyr University:

1. (Recurring from 2012 Comprehensive Evaluation and consistent with the Fall 2015 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report) Clearly explicate specified thresholds for meaningful core theme indicators of achievement that, in totality, provides sufficient evidence to assess mission fulfillment and sustainability (2020 Standards: 1.B.2).
2. Planning for programs and services be guided by core themes and/or institutionally defined goals and objectives, consistent with the university's strategic and the academic master plans and that planning efforts are informed by appropriately defined data that are analyzed and used to evaluate achievement of core theme objectives (2020 Standards: 1.B.3).
3. Implement a holistic process of systematically collecting, analyzing, and communicating meaningful, assessable, and verifiable data with appropriately defined indicators and benchmarks as the basis for evaluating student achievement and engage in regular review of the assessment process to ensure the appraisal of authentic achievements that will lead to improvement of programs and services (2020 Standards: 1.B.1, 1.C.7, ER6).

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2021
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Ad Hoc Report Fall 2021
  - Recommendation 4: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2022
- Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2025
- Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2026

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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.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:eg

cc: Dr. David L. Rule, Interim Sr. Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Keith Watson, President Emeritus, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences