

September 11, 2017

Dianna Graves
Accreditation Liaison Officer
Claremont McKenna College
500 E Ninth Street
Claremont, CA 91711-6400

Dear Dianna,

The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) has completed its Mid-Cycle Review of Claremont McKenna College (CMC). The purpose of the Mid-Cycle Review is to "identify problems with an institution's ... continued compliance with agency standards" while "tak[ing] into account institutional ... strengths and stability" (Code of Federal Regulations, §602.19(b)).

Areas examined. The Mid-Cycle Review focuses on factors related to the WSCUC Standards and includes student achievement, enrollment changes, financial indicators, and institutional information. Data are gathered from your institution's annual report and from public sources. Below are the factors examined, the relevant CFR, source of the data, and the reference point for making comparisons.

Factor	CFR	Source of Data	Data Point
4 year graduation rate	1.2	College Navigator	Regional average: 39%
6 year graduation rate	1.2	College Navigator	Regional average: 59% Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions: minimum 25%
6 year graduation rate disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender	2.10	College Navigator	No specified data point
Enrollment changes	3.4	WSCUC Annual Report	WSCUC practice: 20% increase or decrease
Pell grant recipients	1.4	College Navigator	Regional average: 39%
Median graduate borrower debt	1.6	College Navigator	Regional average: \$21,522
Student default rate	1.6, 3.4	College Navigator	California Student Aid Commission: less than 15.5%
Composite score	3.4	Federal Student Aid	US Department of Education: minimum 1.5
Student/faculty ratio	2.1, 3.1	College Navigator	No specified data point
Faculty/degree ratio	2.1, 3.1	Calculated from College Navigator	WSCUC practice: minimum 1

A review is also conducted of the institution website's student achievement link, submitted in the annual report to determine whether:

- student achievement data are easy to find
- data include:
 - retention rates, aggregated and disaggregated and for multiple years
 - graduation rates, aggregated and disaggregated and for multiple years
 - brief and focused evidence of student learning (i.e., typically learning outcomes assessment results)
- data and evidence are displayed in a user-friendly way

A review is made of the institution’s updated Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators (IEEI) to determine:

- whether learning outcomes have been developed (for programs and general education)
- where outcomes are published, what evidence is used to assess outcomes, who interprets results and what the process is, and how findings are used
- when was/is the date of each program’s Program Review

Results. Below are the findings from CMC’s review, beginning with a summary of the basic data points:

Data Point	Source	CFR	Region Mean Or Data Point	Institution Value
4-year graduation rate	College Navigator	1.2	39%	86%
6-year graduation rate	College Navigator	1.2	59%	93%
Enrollment changes	WSCUC Annual Report	3.4	No more than 20% increase or decrease	Moderate increases the last 2 years
Percent of students receiving Pell Grants	College Navigator	1.4	39%	13%
Median graduate borrower debt	College Scorecard	1.6	\$21,522	\$13,500
Cohort default rate	College Navigator	1.6; 3.4	Less than 15.5%	0%
Composite score	Federal Student Aid	3.4	Minimum of 1.5	3

WSCUC staff notes the following for CMC:

CMC is commended for exceptional overall 4 and 6 year graduation rates. The college is also commended for exemplary cohort default rate and composite score data, coupled with median graduate debt that is noticeably below the median for the region. Some consider the percent of students receiving Pell Grants as a proxy for student diversity; CMC’s value is about one-third of the percentage for the region.

The student achievement link provided by CMC with the annual report goes to a consumer information website. The website includes a link to retention data; CMC had a 4% decline in retention over a 5-year period. Retention data are not disaggregated. African American and Hispanic student graduation rates are lower than overall averages. CMC is commended for providing 6-year graduation rates for Pell recipients and those results match the institution’s overall rate. The student achievement link did not provide results of the assessment of student learning.

WSCUC staff did not identify issues with CMC's continued compliance with WSCUC standards. We updated the accreditation history to reflect this conclusion from the MCR and notified the Commission.

If you have feedback for us regarding your experience of the Mid-Cycle Review process, please share that feedback with me. As always, please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Maloney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen A Maloney, Ed.D.
Vice President
WASC Senior College and University Commission