



WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

January 16, 2023

In a letter dated May 16, 2022, the New England Commission of Higher Education ([NECHE](http://neche.org)) notified Bay State College that it was being placed on probation for failing to meet two of its nine standards, Standard 3 (*Organization and Governance*) and Standard 7 (*Institutional Resources*). It also issued a public notation that the College was at risk of failing to meet two other standards, Standard 5 (*Students*) and Standard 6 (*Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship*).

The College was again before the Commission in June, 2022 and also in August, 2022 when the Commission continued it on probation and on notation. A team of evaluators visited the College for three days in November, 2022, and the report of that team was before the Commission for consideration on January 12, 2023 for the College to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn.

At its meeting on January 12, the Commission voted to withdraw Bay State College's accreditation as of August 31, 2023. This date was set to allow as many current students as possible to complete their degree without interruption. Bay State College has seven days from receiving written notice of the Commission's decision (notice sent and received on January 16) to inform the Commission if it will appeal the decision. Until the Commission receives notice that no appeal will be filed or if filed, the appeal is concluded, the decision of the Commission is not considered final.

The basis for the decision to withdraw accreditation is that the College failed to meet its burden of proof that it would come into compliance with Standard 7 by the end of the probationary period. The standard on *Institutional Resources* requires the institution to demonstrate it "has sufficient human, financial, information, physical, and technological resources and capacity to support its mission;" that its "resources are sufficient to sustain the quality of its educational program and to support institutional improvement now and in the foreseeable future;" and to demonstrate "its financial capacity to graduate its entering class."

The specific concerns of the Commission included the following: the recent suspension of VA benefits for any new students, the placing of the College on Heightened Cash Monitoring-2 (HCM-2) status by the U.S. Department of Education which will require the College to front all Title IV funds for all its students which the College acknowledged will likely require it to seek additional funds from its owner, the fact that the operating deficit for the latest budget year (calendar year 2022) was \$500,000 more than projected, a low financial responsibility composite score (.07) from the U.S. Department of Education, the College's history of dramatic enrollment declines in the face of overly optimistic projections, and its failure, as of January 12, to have finalized even one teach-out agreement for any of its students or any of its programs.

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