

July 8, 2020

Dr. James Incorvaia
Chancellor
Reiss-Davis Graduate School
3200 Motor Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Dear Chancellor Incorvaia:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Reiss-Davis Graduate School (RDGS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 26, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to RDGS March 18-21, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by RDGS prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's May 20, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Halyna Kornuta, Provost; Allen Bishop, Dean; Lourdes Brown, Director of Operations; Anahita Naficy, Board Member; and Cecile Falk, Board Chair. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin on May 1, 2023
5. Schedule a Special Visit in spring 2022 to address:
 - a. diversification of sources of revenue to ensure financial stability and sustainability.
 - b. student enrollment and retention consistent with the strategic enrollment management plan and that aligns with the budget plan.
 - c. succession planning to include all leadership positions.

The Commission commends RDGS in particular for the following:

1. Initial implementation of learning outcomes tools, such as standardized rubrics, to assess, collect, and respond to outcomes data, including the use of rubrics directly related to program learning outcomes for the second year comprehensive exam, dissertation proposal, and defense.
2. Significant, broad-based institutional participation and preparation of self-study and documentary evidence, including interdepartmental familiarity with CFRs across standards.
3. Evidence of data-driven decision making as exemplified by the marketing process.
4. Development of specialized curriculum for students from Ryokan College, with a plan to assess achievement of learning outcomes with rubrics.

5. Robust use of learning management system/student information system to make data-driven decisions related to lead prospects, marketing, admissions, and instruction.
6. Faculty and staff participation in and commitment to the institution as seen in council and planning meetings.
7. Well thought-out, inclusive, and comprehensive strategic plan and strategic enrollment management plan that reveal an understanding of the institution's future needs.
8. Excellent attention and responsiveness to student needs from faculty and staff.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Build on the effectiveness of the second year comprehensive exam which assesses program learning outcomes to refine course content assessment. (CFR 2.4)
2. Develop an institutional definition for meaning, quality, and integrity of the degree in ways that define and monitor minimum 'meets and exceeds' mastery levels for learning outcomes. (CFRs 2.4, 2.6)
3. Further develop the capacity of institutional research to disaggregate student learning outcomes by demographic characteristics, analyze this data, and develop related actions to serve student needs. (CFRs 2.10, 4.1-4.3)
4. Expand co-curricular offerings that are student accessible, aligned with learning outcomes, and implement comprehensive co-curricular assessment strategies to determine the effectiveness of these programs. (CFR 2.11)
5. Diversify sources of revenue and increase student enrollment and retention to ensure financial stability. (CFR 3.4)
6. Expand the board's role in ensuring institutional financial stability and expand board coordination on the Vista Del Mar board. (CFRs 3.4, 3.9)
7. Continue to build and expand the succession plans to include all leadership positions. (CFR 3.9)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that RDGS has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, RDGS should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

RDGS must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

Reiss-Davis Graduate School is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as "this program is accredited" or "this degree is accredited" are incorrect and misleading. The phrase "fully accredited" is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees offered by RDGS at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of RDGS governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the RDGS's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that RDGS undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC 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. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamiene S. Studley
President

JSS/so

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair
Allen Bishop, ALO
Cecile Falk, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team
Susan Opp, Vice President
Linda Petersen, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees
Reiss-Davis Graduate School

1. Doctor of Psychology