

March 8, 2022

Mr. Eric Blum  
President  
Oak Valley College  
2759 Ayala Drive  
Rialto, CA 92377

Dear President Blum:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Oak Valley College (OVC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 25, 2022. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Oak Valley College October 13-15, 2021. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Oak Valley College prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's December 6, 2021 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Gary A. Miller, Board Member. 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 next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2027 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2027
4. Schedule a Special Visit in fall 2024 to address all requirements in this letter

The Commission commends Oak Valley College in particular for the following:

1. Strong commitment, demonstrated at all organizational levels, to its mission of offering high-quality, debt-free educational opportunities to the region's underserved populations.
2. Institutional research team's clear and concise reports inclusive of data elements and graphic representations.
3. Significant progress in diversifying faculty and staff in alignment with the student population it serves.
4. The Board of Trustees' efforts to diversify its membership, update its by-laws, and build more sustainability into its structure.
5. Substantial improvement to the shared governance processes, especially related to faculty leadership.

6. Commitment to developing program learning outcomes appropriate to the degree and instituting review processes to improve educational outcomes.
7. Hiring faculty and staff in critical roles, providing a solid foundation for the institution's future.
8. Commitment and dedication of the senior leadership and the Board of Trustees in the development and maturation of the institution.

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

1. Demonstrate progress in the standardization of procedures and processes related to student support services. Better communicate to students and faculty the appropriate staff contacts related to specific policies and requests. (CFR 1.7 and 3.2)
2. Give careful consideration and evaluation to the effectiveness and appropriateness of the all-adjunct faculty model. Additional external faculty professional development opportunities should be provided. (CFR 2.1, 3.1, and 3.3)
3. Conduct a thorough review of staffing resources compared to peer institutions to better support the capacity of co-curricular and operational resources. The results should inform a revised, well-articulated long-term staffing plan and succession plans for critical positions. (CFR 3.1, 3.3, and 4.1)
4. Demonstrate progress in providing opportunities to co-curricular and operational staff to deepen their professional and compliance expertise through professional organizations and learning opportunities. (CFR 1.7, 3.1, and 3.2)
5. Continue to diversify revenue sources. (CFR 3.4)
6. Articulate, strengthen, and apply shared governance processes across the institution by clarifying roles and responsibilities related to policies and curriculum change approvals. Continue to reinforce collective decision-making empowering broad faculty participation. (CFR 3.7 and 3.10)
7. Ensure that institutional habits of outcomes-based assessment are adopted by the faculty and that academic decisions are based on data and evidence. (CFR 2.4 and 4.3)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Oak Valley College addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Oak Valley College 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.

Oak Valley College must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*Oak Valley College is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

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

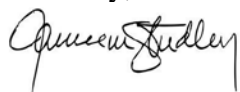
The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program 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 stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by Oak Valley College 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 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 is being sent to the chair of Oak Valley College’s governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Oak Valley College’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 Oak Valley College 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/lp

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Megan Herring, ALO  
Tony Angelo, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

## **Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees**

Bachelor of Arts in Business