

January 25, 2019

Ms. Margot Doucette, Esq.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Design Institute of San Diego  
8555 Commerce Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92121

Dear Ms. Doucette:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Design Institute of San Diego (DISD) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at the meeting of the Executive Committee on January 14, 2019.

**Action**

Allow the date of Initial Accreditation on February 16, 2018 to be applied retroactively up to September 14, 2017.

**Rationale**

On July 25, 2018, the Office of Postsecondary Education of the US Department of Education (USDE) ruled that it would “permit the retroactive application of a date of accreditation, following an affirmative accreditation decision...” The purpose of this ruling was to provide a solution for students who graduate from institutions before Initial Accreditation is granted and risk being ineligible for future educational or “...credentialing opportunities or jobs even though they completed the program that was awarded accreditation based on the quality of the program...” during the time of their enrollment (USDE July 25, 2018 memorandum). The Commission decided to return to its practice prior to June 7, 2017 of establishing a retroactive accreditation date, where sufficient evidence warrants such an action for institutions granted Initial Accreditation.

The date stipulated in the Commission Action Letter (CAL) granting Initial Accreditation is the institution’s official date of Initial Accreditation. The accredited status of the institution should not be misunderstood or misrepresented. The retroactive application of this action covers the period of time the Commission has evidence of compliance sufficient at the level of Initial Accreditation prior to the Commission action.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degree programs offered by DISD at the time the Commission granted Initial Accreditation, as listed at the end of that CAL dated March 9, 2018 as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. This action also covers off-campus sites and distance education operational at the time the Commission granted Initial Accreditation.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamiene S. Studley  
President

JSS/do

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair  
Robert Wright, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Richard Osborn, Vice President