



May 10, 2019 – Updated May 20, 2019

Brad Crisp  
Dean  
Abilene Christian University  
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Dear Dean Crisp:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the peer review team recommendation to extend accreditation for the degree programs in business offered by Abilene Christian University is concurred with by the Continuous Improvement Review Committee (CIRC) and ratified by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to you, the faculty, the students, the staff, and all supporters of Abilene Christian University.

Abilene Christian University has achieved accreditation for five additional years. The next on-site continuous improvement review occurs in the fifth year, 2023-2024. A timeline specific to the school's visit year is available online: <https://www.aacsb.edu/accreditation/journey/business/continuous-review>.

One purpose of peer review is to recognize initiatives that support an environment of continuous improvement of quality programs. As noted in the team report Abilene Christian University is to be commended on the best practices found on **Attachment A**.

The school should begin to address the concern(s) identified by the peer review team and CIRC. As part of the next Continuous Improvement Review Application, due July 1, 2021, the school is asked to update the CIRC on the progress made in addressing the concerns listed on **Attachment B**.

Please refer to the [Continuous Improvement Review Handbook](#) for more information regarding the processes for continuous improvement reviews. The handbook is evolving and is updated frequently to provide the latest revisions to the CIR process. Continue to monitor the website for the most current version of the handbook.

Again, congratulations from the Accreditation Council and AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Thank you for participating in the continuous improvement review process and for providing valuable feedback that is essential to a meaningful and beneficial review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caryn Beck-Dudley".

Caryn Beck-Dudley, Chair  
Board of Directors

cc: Peer Review Team

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Attachment A

This section provides a brief description of commendations and best practices of the school that demonstrate leadership and high quality continuous improvement in management education.

1. COBA has launched two online graduate programs, and MBA and MS in Management, to complement their residential MAcc since the last review.
2. The Griggs Center for Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy engages students in a variety of ways. In 2016, the Center was recognized for providing “outstanding student engagement and leadership. “Wildcat Ventures” sponsored by the center has won the top award in its category from the Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization for two of the last three years Other events sponsored by the center have grown significantly in terms of student involvement and programming.
3. The Lytle Center for Faith and Leadership. The Lytle Center provides leadership opportunities and a speaker series that are squarely in line with COBA’s mission.
4. The centralized advising model seems to be working well.
  - COBA enjoys significant support from its alumni for its programming, student experience and student placement.
  - COBA has created groups of external stakeholders who provide simultaneous and holistic review of curricula.
  - The PRT was very impressed with the degree of interaction among faculty, staff and students. The level of interaction between students and faculty is extraordinary, as reported by both faculty, staff and students. Faculty, staff and students attend chapel regularly together. Multiple faculty and students talked about dinners at faculty members’ homes. As noted above, the Griggs and Lytle Centers provide significant opportunity for interaction.

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Attachment B

This section identifies areas that the school should address during the coming review cycle. Please be prepared to discuss progress made in addressing these concerns in the Continuous Improvement Review Application.

1. As COBA continues to expand its graduate programs, the college should evaluate its standards for faculty classifications. For example, the “professional development activities” necessary to maintain IP status need to be focused more on “practice” activities” of sustained quality and duration. In addition, the standards should be reflective of a school that offers graduate education. (Standard15: Faculty Qualifications and Engagement)
2. COBA and the College for Graduate and Professional Studies jointly administer the graduate online programs. As these programs continue to grow and new business programs are considered, COBA should clearly articulate its oversight of curriculums along with faculty qualifications and deployment to ensure quality outcomes in accordance with AACSB standards. (Standard 5: Faculty Sufficiency and Deployment, Standard 9: Curriculum Content)