

February 27, 2025

Shai Reshef  
CEO  
University of the People  
595 E. Colorado Boulevard, Suite 623  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear President Reshef:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning University of the People (UoPeople) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 to University of the People November 13-15, 2024 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by University of the People prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 and the institution's January 13, 2025 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Marie Cini, Provost and Chief Academic Officer. 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 3 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2030
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address all requirements in this Commission Action Letter

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Committing to continuous improvement and the cohesive collaboration of university leaders who demonstrated clear understanding, effective planning, and successful implementation of meaningful changes to institutional processes.
2. Significantly improving faculty understanding and ownership of assessment of student learning.

3. Investing in the university advancement function, including hiring leadership, developing an operational plan, and specifying outcome metrics.
4. Developing a three-year financial plan that projects enrollment growth and positive financial results.

### **Areas for Development**

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Continue to implement the data governance structure and strengthen analytic capability. (CFR 4.2)
2. Strengthen the rationale underlying co-curricular programming and increase capacity to assure programs support the personal and professional development of all students. (CFR 2.11)
3. Promote academic effectiveness in institutional planning and decision making by leadership at all levels. (CFR 4.3)
4. Continue efforts to strengthen the process to evaluate course learning outcomes to ensure that expectations for student learning are achieved. (CFR 2.6)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that University of the People completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, University of the People 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.

University of the People must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*University of the People 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 University of the People 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 University of the People's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the University of the People'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 University of the People 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. N. Oberg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher N. Oberg, PhD  
Interim President

CNO/sbh

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Marie Cini, ALO  
Pascaline Servan-Schreiber, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 3 team  
Stephanie Huie, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

## **Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees University of the People**

### **Courses Offered in the Distance Education Modality**

Associate of Science in Business Administration  
Associate of Science in Business Administration, Arabic  
Associate of Science in Community and Public Health  
Associate of Science in Computer Science  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science Health Sciences  
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Business Administration, Arabic  
Master of Education  
Master of Science in Information Technology  
Certificate in Public Health and Health Services  
Certificate in Human Biology  
Certificate in Epidemiology  
Certificate in Behavioral Health  
Certificate in Finance  
Certificate in Accounting  
Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Certificate in Marketing  
Certificate in Strategy  
Certificate in Data Science  
Certificate in Network and Application Security

### **Off Campus Locations**

UoPeople presently does not have any off campus locations