



December 14, 2025

Dr. Mary Grant  
President  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
621 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear President Grant:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 20, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education took the following action with respect to Massachusetts College of Art and Design:

that Massachusetts College of Art and Design be continued in accreditation;

that the institution submit an interim (fifth-year) report by January 15, 2030 for consideration in Spring 2030;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the Spring 2030 interim report give emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. developing a strategic enrollment plan;
2. accomplishing its facilities planning initiatives, including addressing the institution's accessibility and deferred maintenance issues;
3. continuing to build an institution-wide culture of data-informed decision-making;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring 2035.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) is continued in accreditation because the Commission finds the institution to be in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation*.

The Commission commends Massachusetts College of Art and Design for its:

- strong, responsive, and respected leadership team that is “moving the College ahead with Vision and Purpose;” engaged and supportive Trustees; and faculty invested in the institution's continuous improvement – all of whom take pride in their institution's mission and its “commitment to community involvement and the public good.”
- culture of student-centeredness as exhibited by the “collaboration and cooperation among Faculty, Staff, academic, and administrative departments in support of student needs.” As reported by the visiting team, the engagement of students in college and student governance and activities is impressive.

- “holistic” approach to general education designed to develop “not only well-rounded artists, designers, and educators, but also informed and responsible citizens,” with student achievement of the learning outcomes measured by senior capstone courses. The connection between the College’s liberal arts curriculum and coursework in the majors that “benefits student learning” distinguishes the institution.
- solid financial position developed through prudent and conservative financial planning and endowment growth as reflected in FY2024 by its cash and equivalents balance of \$46.8 million and pooled endowment of over \$20 million.

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. The purpose of the Spring 2030 interim report is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution’s current status in keeping with the Policy on the Periodic Review of Accredited Institutions. In the Spring 2023 interim report, the Commission asks the institution for an update on the following areas identified for development:

1. **Developing a strategic enrollment plan (*Students, Statement of the Standard; 2.3*).** MassArt is in the process of building and implementing its strategic enrollment plan designed to address its recruitment, admissions, and retention challenges. Monitoring changing demographics and leveraging technology to track and analyze program-level data to measure the success of targeted programming and interventions will be key to setting and achieving the plan’s goals.
2. **Accomplishing its facilities planning initiatives, including addressing the institution’s accessibility and deferred maintenance issues (2.4, 2.5, 7.21, 7.23, 7.24).** To achieve the institution’s goal to “become a more sustainable campus,” the College’s five-year program to address the College’s \$8.2 million deferred maintenance will be used to inform the development of a comprehensive 10-Year Campus Master Plan. In addition, a study of the Tower Building has been undertaken to determine approaches to tackle its long-standing health, safety, and accessibility challenges. As noted by the visiting team, MassArt would benefit from “accelerating the development of its master plan to ensure facilities planning aligns with the College’s current strategic priorities.”
3. **Continuing to build an institution-wide culture of data-informed decision-making (2.2, 2.6, 7.26).** MassArt processes of planning and evaluation are “robust.” The institution has also made great strides toward achieving its goal of having “effective practices in collecting, analyzing, and distributing data to support strategic decision-making.” Yet, work remains to ensure the College’s data-driven culture “extends to all departments, academic and administrative, with further system integration.”

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2035 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

You will note that the Commission has specified no length or term of accreditation. Accreditation is a continuing relationship that is reconsidered when necessary. Thus, while the Commission has indicated the timing of the next comprehensive evaluation, the schedule should not be unduly emphasized because it is subject to change.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the self-study prepared by Massachusetts College of Art and Design and for the report submitted by the visiting team. The Commission also welcomed

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the opportunity to meet with you and Brenda Molife, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, during its deliberations.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Daren Bascome and Dr. Noe Ortega. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Whelan" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Whelan  
Commission Chair

MW/mrc

cc: Mr. Daren Bascome; [dbascome@massart.edu](mailto:dbascome@massart.edu)  
Dr. Noe Ortega; [nortega@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:nortega@dhe.mass.edu)

Attachment: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions