

## Joint Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education and Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts

At its meeting on March 5, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to ask Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts to show cause why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that Magdalen College is not meeting the Commission's Standards on *Planning and Evaluation*, *Organization and Governance*, and *Institutional Resources*. At its meeting on September 23-24, 2021, Commission will consider the information submitted and presented by Magdalen College. If the Commission finds that the College does not meet the standards on *Planning and Evaluation*, *Organization and Governance*, and *Institutional Resources*, it will continue the College in accreditation and determine future monitoring. Decisions to place an institution on probation or withdraw accreditation are appealable. Institutions placed on probation remain accredited and eligible for federal funding, including student aid.

Interim President Eric Buck said in response, "Because Magdalen is committed to providing the best possible education in the liberal arts to young Catholics from around the country, we began our relationship with the NEASC-NECHE in 2007. Magdalen rejoiced on being granted accreditation in 2018 and is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this member organization, benefitting from its hundreds of years of institutional experience in administering quality colleges and universities. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Magdalen acknowledges her need for continued improvement in the three standards identified by the NECHE. We look forward to working with the commission to identify ways in which to take action on those areas of concern and anticipate returning to a normal footing following the pandemic's end. Magdalen remains fully committed to her students, current and future, and to the mission of faithful Catholic higher education for years to come."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 205 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and eleven American-style institutions in other countries.

Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 2018 and is a private, independent college offering baccalaureate programs in the liberal arts by a classical understanding of human nature and the human telos, rooted in and shaped by ancient philosophy and the Catholic intellectual and spiritual traditions.

Further information may be found at:

- New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org/>
- Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts: <https://magdalen.edu/>

April 21, 2021

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