



New England Commission of Higher Education  
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## Joint Statement

### New England Commission of Higher Education and Montserrat College of Art

At its meeting on January 17, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) issued Montserrat College of Art a Notation because the Commission found that the College is in danger of not meeting its Standard on *Institutional Resources* due to the decline in enrollment that has led to a plan to reduce the institution's physical footprint and staffing so that it can meet its liquidity needs and return to balanced budgets. The Commission will monitor the institution's progress through a Spring 2025 Financial Screening Response report, a Fall 2025 progress report, and a Fall 2026 interim report with focused visit.

Montserrat College of Art President, Brian Pellinen, said in response: For more than 50 years, Montserrat has been a nimble, responsive hub for creativity on Boston's North Shore, with a dynamic presence in, and multimillion dollar impact on, downtown Beverly, MA. We appreciate the Commission's guidance regarding its Standard on *Institutional Resources*. We look forward to an ongoing partnership, as we tailor our institution to best serve, now and in the future, the engaged young artists who choose Montserrat for its individualized approach to interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial arts education.

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 over 200 degree-granting institutions in the United States, one system with seven universities, and twelve American-style institutions in other countries. Montserrat College of Art was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1995. It is a private college in Beverly, Massachusetts offering a BFA degree program that provides a well-rounded, interdisciplinary approach to art education by infusing art making with research and critical thinking.

Further information may be found at: New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org> Montserrat College of Art: <https://www.montserrat.edu/>

January 24, 2025