

JOINT STATEMENT

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

At its meeting on September 24, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to place Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts on probation for a period not to exceed four years because the Commission found that the College is not meeting the Commission's Standard on *Institutional Resources*, specifically that the institution did not demonstrate that its resources are sufficient to sustain the quality of its educational program and to support institutional improvement now and in the foreseeable future. Decisions to place an institution on probation may be appealed. Institutions placed on probation remain accredited and eligible for federal funding, including student aid. The Commission will monitor the institution's progress to bring itself back into compliance with the Standard through a Spring 2022 progress report and Spring 2023 comprehensive evaluation.

President Ryan Messmore said in response:

“The past two years have been financially challenging for many Americans, as they have been challenging for Magdalen, our students and alumni. Now that we are facing down the disruptions of a pandemic, we are already launching new initiatives focused on enrollment and development. As a result, we are confident that Magdalen will overcome these challenges and move forward on even stronger footing. The College looks forward to working with NECHE to achieve these goals, and we remain fully committed to—and deeply passionate about—the mission of offering students a transformative Catholic liberal 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 205 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states, one system with seven campuses, and twelve 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 an 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/>

November 10, 2021

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