



February 7, 2020

Peter Rogers  
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
2301 Vine Street  
Berkeley, CA 94708  
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Dear President Rogers,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 30-31, 2020, and included on its agenda Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology's recent comprehensive visit and the resulting report by the evaluation committee.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and *Procedures*, the Board voted:

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Philosophy)
  - Master of Arts (Theology)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: No
5. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing these distinctive strengths:
  - a. A strong commitment to living out the Dominican charism, manifested in a professional faculty, staff, and participatory community of lay and religious students dedicated to the study and practice of a Thomistic ethos.
  - b. A unique collection of art and artifacts in the Blackfriars Gallery and library that serves to enhance theological education and provides invaluable resources for research in the areas of film, religion, and art.
  - c. A commitment to maintaining collaborative relationships with Zaytuna College (The Common Heritage Project) and the Graduate Theological Union, which, though independent of one another, serve to enhance student learning by providing access to broadened historical, cultural, methodological, and contextual perspectives.
  - d. A dedicated focus on maintaining excellence in philosophical studies with academic rigor.
6. To encourage that attention be given to the following areas of needed growth during the next period of accreditation, with each area linked to a specific Standard:
  - a. The school is encouraged to renew their focus on recruiting and hiring a more diverse faculty, student body, and staff, representative of the local and ecclesial demographic (Standard 2, sections 2.5 and 2.6; Standard 3, section 3.3.1.3; Standard 5, section 5.1.3).
  - b. The school is encouraged to remain committed to the ongoing development of the housing task force, charged with the acquisition and maintenance of affordable housing as an integral element of the school's mission (Standard 6, section 6.3.2; Standard 8, section 8.3.4).

- c. The school is encouraged to ascertain a written agreement outlining the amount of mission support promised and that will be provided to DSPT by the Western Dominican Province for fiscal years 2020 – 2025, at which time the agreement can be re-evaluated (Standard 8, sections 8.2.1.2 and 8.2.2).
7. To require the following reports addressing areas of needed improvement, with each action below linked to one or more specific Standards:
- a. To require a report by November 1, 2020, regarding orientation for new board members, overall board duties and responsibilities, and evaluation of its effectiveness (Standard 7, section 7.3.1.3 and 7.3.1.11).
  - b. To require a report by February 1, 2021, regarding curricular mapping, course descriptions, and sequencing that aligns achievement of individual course objectives with programmatic objectives, demonstrating the achievement of outcomes specified in ATS degree programs, Standards A and D (Standard 3, section 3.1.2, Educational Standard, section ES.6.4.2; Standard A, section A.1.3.2).
  - c. To require a report by April 1, 2021, regarding comprehensive planning processes that articulate persons responsible, and strategies for implementing the school's strategic plan (Standard 1, section 1.2.1).
  - d. To require a report by February 1, 2022, regarding the development of a core curriculum for the strengthening of the theology program, including ongoing, sustainable, comprehensive, and systematic assessment of programmatic student learning outcomes for the MA (Theology), Standard D degree, including expanded direct measures and rubrics that link data artifacts with institutional planning and strategic initiatives to support the ongoing quality assurance of the seminary program (Educational Standard, sections ES.6.1 and ES.6.2.1; Standard D, sections D.1.4.2 and D.2.1).

Actions taken during the 2020 winter meeting of the Board of Commissioners are effective as of **January 31, 2020**.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Elsie Miranda  
Director of Accreditation

/cmt

cc: bkromholtz@dspt.edu