

February 26, 2020

Mr. Allen Peterson
CEO
National Test Pilot School
PO Box 658
Mojave, CA 93502

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning National Test Pilot School (NTPS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 14, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to National Test Pilot School November 20-22, 2019. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by National Test Pilot School prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Mr. Ilan Arush, Chief Academic Officer and Mr. Tom Morgenfeld, Board Chair.. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2025
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review to begin on May 1, 2023
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2022

The Commission commends National Test Pilot School in particular for the following:

1. Attracting and maintaining highly qualified faculty with specific technical expertise who evidence a deep commitment to their students' success, and for establishing onboarding practices that develop consistent pedagogical practices across the institution.
2. Supporting and matriculating a highly qualified student body with impressive credentials, and for the deep engagement in assuring students' success, both in achieving the desired learning and in completing their programs successfully.
3. The robust assessment process for evaluating students' learning outcomes through transparent and personal interaction between faculty and students.
4. The quality of the facilities of the institution, including unique tools developed and adapted to meet specific learning needs through the acquisition and maintenance of a diverse fleet of aircraft and simulators.
5. Developing and maintaining deep relationships with the aviation industry, including manufacturers, governments, and individuals who need the skills and preparation provided by the institution.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Engage in a review and refresh of the strategic plan and ensure that the plan be scheduled for similar revisions on a periodic basis to inform, update, and assess the operations of the institution.
2. Continue to develop and codify the practice of using data generated through institutional research to support decisions involving changes in organizational practice across all programs and departments.
3. Consistent with WSCUC Governing Board policy, continue the evolution of the Board of Trustees towards a greater diversity of expertise and representation (including members with higher education and finance experience), and continue to develop Board committees consistent with governance best practices.
4. Achieve the full realization of the separation between the roles of the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer.

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirms that National Test Pilot School has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, National Test Pilot School should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

National Test Pilot School must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

National Test Pilot School is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulates that this action encompasses the degrees offered by National Test Pilot School at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs that have been reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

Institutions granted Initial Accreditation are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission.
2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process.
3. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of National Test Pilot School governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the National Test Pilot School's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that National Test Pilot School undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/cno

Cc: Reed Dasenbrock, Commission Chair
Tom Morgenfeld, Board Chair
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team
Christopher N. Oberg, Executive Vice President

Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees and Certificate Courses

Degrees

- Masters of Science in Flight Test Engineering
- Masters of Science in Flight Test and Evaluation

Certificate Courses

- Test Pilot and Flight Test Engineer Professional Course
- Test Pilot and Flight Test Engineer Performance and Flying Qualities Professional Course
- Test Pilot and Flight Test Engineer Systems Professional Course
- Category 2 Test Pilot and Flight Test Engineer Course
- Introduction to Fixed Wing Performance and Flying Qualities Flight Testing Course
- Introduction to Rotary Wing Performance and Flying Qualities Flight Testing Course
- Introduction to Systems Testing Course
- Flight Test Certification and Standardization Course
- Operational Test and Evaluation Course
- UAV Systems Test Course
- HMD and NVG Testing Course
- Technical Pilot Course