



Accrediting Council on Education in
Journalism and Mass Communications

May 9, 2025

University of Arizona
Suresh Garimella, President

Dear President Garimella:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications met May 1 in Washington, D.C., and voted 17-0 that the undergraduate program in the School of Journalism receive provisional reaccreditation. There was one recusal for a conflict of interest. Jessica Retis, School director, attended the meeting.

The Council concurred with the recommendation for provisional reaccreditation from the site team and from the Accrediting Committee. The site team found the program out of compliance on Standard 1: Mission, Governance and Administration and Standard 3: Assessment of Learning Outcomes. Our policies state that a unit may receive provisional accreditation when the Council has found noncompliances or weaknesses that can be corrected within two years.

Our office will be in touch with School administrators to schedule a two-person revisit team. Revisits usually take place two years after the original visit. During the revisit, the School of Journalism will be reviewed for improvement in the areas identified as deficiencies in the site team report: lack of a strong strategic plan to guide execution of a modern vision for the School, and the need for greater oversight and management; lack of an updated assessment plan; lack of clear and effective processes and structures for gathering data; lack of faculty acting on the data to improve student learning outcomes and close the loop; insufficient clarity in who was accountable for the annual assessment process; and lack of industry or alumni involvement in assessment activities.

Council procedures require that I tell you of your right to appeal this decision. You must notify the ACEJMC office within 30 days of receipt of this letter if you wish to make an appeal. Grounds for appeal of a decision to award provisional accreditation must be based on one or more of the following: 1) evidence that the Council failed to adhere to applicable adopted procedures; 2) evidence that, based upon the record before the Council, the decision was arbitrary and capricious or not supported by substantial evidence. Appeals must be made in writing and must be based on concrete evidence that was in the record before the Council at the time of the original decision. All expenses of the appeal, including travel, shall be paid by the institution initiating the appeal.



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If an appeal is filed, while it is pending and before a decision on the appeal is made by the Council, there will be no change in the accredited status of the School of Journalism. The status will remain the same as currently listed following the vote in 2018 (reaccredited).

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with your faculty and administrators in the assessment of your program. The goal of the Accrediting Council is to improve the quality of education offered to students served by a program through that assessment. Please accept my best wishes for success for the School of Journalism, its students, faculty and the professional media constituencies it serves.

Sincerely,

Del Galloway, ACEJMC President

cc: Jessica Retis, Director
David Kurpius, Site Team Chair
Marie Hardin, Chair, Accrediting Committee
Patricia Thompson, Executive Director