



New England Commission of Higher Education
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Joint Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education and Saint Joseph's College of Maine

At its meeting on November 21, 2024, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) issued Saint Joseph's College of Maine (SJC) a Notation because the Commission found that the College is in danger of not meeting the Commission's Standard on *Institutional Resources*, specifically that the institution has yet to establish a history of consistent enrollment and financial improvement as evidence of its ability to build a positive trajectory toward financial sustainability. The Commission will monitor the institution's progress through a Spring 2025 Financial Screening Response Report and a Fall 2025 focused visit.

Saint Joseph's College of Maine President, Joseph L. Cassidy, said in response: Saint Joseph's College is thankful for NECHE's guidance and oversight with regard to its *Institutional Resources* standard as we work to ensure a bright future at SJC. Saint Joseph's College has been a presence in Maine's higher education community for 112 years and remains the state's only Catholic College. While enrollment at SJC has been inconsistent since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the college has rebuilt its recruitment and admissions departments and has worked this year to reestablish long-standing relationships with area and regional high schools. SJC is committed to evaluating and improving efficiency in all aspects of its college operations in support of delivering a quality education, steeped in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy, to its students.

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. Saint Joseph's College of Maine was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1961 and is a private Catholic liberal arts college in Standish, Maine. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, it remains one of the two organizations sponsored by the Sisters in the state of Maine.

Further information may be found at: New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org> Saint Joseph's College of Maine: <https://www.sjcme.edu/>

December 13, 2024