

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Providence, RI

Candidacy Granted: None
Initial Accreditation: December, 1949
Degrees: B, M
Distance Ed: no
Off Campus: no

Apr. 19, 1982: Following comprehensive evaluation, Commission recommended to Executive Committee reaccreditation for 10 years.

Focused evaluation - Spring, 1984, to address tensions which exist between administration and faculty.

Fifth-Year Interim Report - Fall, 1986, to address following concerns:

1. Institution's development at graduate level;
2. Role of liberal arts in undergraduate curriculum.

Next comprehensive evaluation - Fall, 1991.

May 4, 1982: Executive Committee granted reaccreditation for 10 years.

June 1, 1983: Focused evaluation date postponed at School's request until Spring, 1985.

Mar. 8, 1984: The Commission voted to postpone the Spring, 1985 evaluation until Spring, 1986.

Mar. 21, 1985: Nature of Spring 1986 visit changed from focused to comprehensive to permit joint evaluation with NASAD.

Nov. 21, 1986: Following comprehensive evaluation, Commission continued in accreditation.

Progress Report - Spring 1989 - to address the following concerns:

1. the status of a comprehensive plan that articulates the School's goals and how they relate to projections for: enrollment, course offerings, faculty size, teaching loads, space needs, and financial resources; (the plan should be developed with broad participation and should set forth a timetable for implementation);
2. steps taken to provide greater breadth in the liberal arts, particularly science and mathematics, and the status of the cross-registration arrangements with Brown University;
3. the status of fund-raising, particularly for increased financial aid;
4. measures to review and correct safety concerns.

Fifth-Year Interim Report - January 15, 1991.

Next comprehensive evaluation - Spring 1996.

Apr. 27, 1989:

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the progress report of the Rhode Island School of Design and took the following action:

that the progress report submitted by the Rhode Island School of Design be accepted;

that the Fifth-Year Interim Report scheduled for Spring, 1991 be confirmed;

that in addition to providing the information included in all interim reports, the School give emphasis to:

1. the continuing success of the planning process including the implementation of the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee;
2. continuing success in fund-raising;
3. continuing progress in addressing campus safety issues;

that the comprehensive evaluation, scheduled for Spring, 1996 be confirmed.

Apr. 26, 1991:

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the fifth-year interim report submitted by the Rhode Island School of Design and took the following action:

that the fifth-year interim report of the Rhode Island School of Design be accepted;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring, 1996 be confirmed;

that the self-study developed in preparation for the comprehensive evaluation give emphasis to:

1. the effects of demographic trends on enrollment;
2. success in increasing the endowment;
3. success in improving academic advising.

September 27, 1996

Following a comprehensive evaluation, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education voted to take the following action:

that Rhode Island School of Design be continued in accreditation;

that Rhode Island School of Design submit a fifth-year interim report for consideration in Spring, 2001;

that, in addition to providing information included in all interim reports, Rhode Island School of Design give emphasis to its continued success in:

1. strengthening its system of shared governance, particularly in enhancing faculty involvement in committee structures;
2. addressing physical facility needs, especially the library and the technology infrastructure of the institution;
3. achieving its own goals to enhance the diversity of the student body and faculty;
4. evaluating the effectiveness of student assessment vehicles toward their improvement;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring, 2006.

March 2, 2001:

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the fifth-year interim report submitted by the Rhode Island School of Design and took the following action:

that the fifth-year interim report submitted by Rhode Island School of Design be accepted;

that the comprehensive visit scheduled for Spring 2006 be confirmed;

that the self-study developed in preparation for the comprehensive evaluation give emphasis to the School's success in:

1. improving physical facilities, especially the library and the infrastructure for technology;
2. achieving its own goals to increase the diversity of the student body and faculty;
3. assessing the quality of student learning and using the results to inform planning and improvement of the academic program.

September 22, 2006:
(Letter dated Nov. 14, 2006)

Following a comprehensive evaluation, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education took the following action with respect to Rhode Island School of Design:

that Rhode Island School of Design be continued in accreditation;

that the institution submit a fifth-year interim report for consideration in Spring 2011;

that, in addition to providing the information included in all interim reports, the institution give emphasis to its continued success in:

1. integrating strategic planning in the areas of academic programs, finances, and facilities; and communicating plans widely within the campus community;
2. assuring sufficient financial resources are available to sustain and enhance RISD's academic program, taking into account debt, fundraising, space needs, deferred maintenance, and financial aid;

3. developing and implementing institutional effectiveness measures for all areas of the institution, as well as the systematic assessment of student learning outcomes;
4. meeting the institution's diversity goals;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring 2016.

May 18, 2010

At the request of the institution the RISD fifth-year interim report originally scheduled for submission in January 15, 2011 has been delayed until January 15, 2012.

March 3, 2011:

(Letter dated March 24, 2011)

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the financial information submitted by Rhode Island School of Design and took the following action:

that the financial information submitted by Rhode Island School of Design be accepted;

that the fifth-year interim report scheduled for consideration in Spring 2012 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, as well as the matters specified in our letter of November 14, 2006, the institution provide copies of its most recent audited financial statements and management letter;

that the next comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring 2016 be confirmed.

April 19, 2012:

(Letter dated June 15, 2012)

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the fifth-year interim report submitted by Rhode Island School of Design and voted to take the following action:

that the fifth-year interim report submitted by Rhode Island School of Design be accepted;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring 2016 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, the self-study prepared in advance of the Spring 2016 evaluation give emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. implementing its plans to endorse and publicize student learning outcomes and to develop a process to determine that students are meeting the identified outcomes;
2. strengthening its use of data to inform decision making and future planning;
3. undertaking campus master planning, with particular attention to addressing deferred maintenance needs.