

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Takes Important Step Toward Accreditation

法界佛教大學朝向認證資格邁進一大步

By Dharma Realm Buddhist University / Chinese Translation by Fan Yi

法界佛教大學提供文 / 伊凡 中譯



美國西區大學聯盟已授予法界佛教大學認證候選資格。這個聯盟負責加州、夏威夷、以及美國在太平洋領地上，各公私立高等教育機構的認證資格核發。

法大目前提供兩個獨特的學程：四年制的人

The Dharma Realm Buddhist University has been awarded Candidacy for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). WSCUC is a regional accrediting agency serving public and private higher education institutions in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific.

Dharma Realm Buddhist University offers two unique programs: a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree program in Liberal Arts, and a two-year Master of Arts degree program in Buddhist Classics. Both programs combine rigorous engagement with classic philosophical texts with an emphasis on students developing self knowledge. The peaceful rural campus is a unique setting for learning, with traditional classrooms, dorms, over 200 acres of open space, and an organic garden, all flourishing alongside an engaged monastic community.

文士學程和兩年制的佛教經典碩士學程。這兩個學程都融合了古典哲學，並著重培養學生對自我的認識。位於郊區的校園，祥和而獨特，適宜學習，並有傳統的教室、宿舍、200公頃以上的戶外空間、有機菜園，與道場同步發展。

美國西區大學聯盟評估團隊於2016年3月到校園實地考察時，曾與法大教職員與學生對談。法大校長蘇珊·朗思指出，談話的深度與質量以及（萬佛聖城）整個社區對法大的付出，帶給該評估團隊很大的啟發。

該次校園考察後，美國西區大學聯盟盛讚

According to DRBU President Susan Rounds, when the team from WSCUC visited the campus in March 2016 and met with the faculty and students, they were inspired by the depth and quality of the conversations as well as by the commitment of the community.

In a letter following the visit, WSCUC commended DRBU “for its development and ongoing support of a community that is remarkably engaged in old and new ideas, consistently open to fresh perspectives, and creative in advancing the University’s mission on and off campus. The University’s connection to the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association’s monastery provides a rare and inspiring learning environment as well as collaborations and opportunities that enrich both organizations.”

WSCUC will be making a return visit in November 2017, as part of the ongoing accreditation process.

President Rounds stated, “Achieving Candidacy is a critical milestone for us and we know that our students will benefit from the new and ongoing initiatives that DRBU has implemented through this accreditation process. We are honored that WSCUC specifically recognizes that the DRBU community demonstrates and practices an ‘ethic of care’ that is grounded in the University’s mission and values. WSCUC also observed that these values were ‘visible in all aspects of the student’s experience’ (classroom, student conferences, residential life, work-study program, student activities, and so on).”

The Commission action letter and team report has been made public on the WSCUC directory: <https://www.wascsenior.org/institutions/dharma-realm-buddhist-university>.

As the article indicates, “Candidacy” means that DRBU “has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA, 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of five years. Candidacy is an indication that the institution is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not assure eventual Accreditation.”

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「法大的發展，以及聖城對法大持續的支持。整個社區對新舊觀念兼容並蓄，對新視野一直持開放態度；無論在校園內外，都以創意方式推動法大的宗旨。法界佛教大學與法總道場之間的連帶關係，提供了難得又具啟發性的學習環境，乃至彼此之間的合作與機會，可謂互蒙其利。」

美國西區大學聯盟將於2017年11月，再度來到法大校園考察，這是認證過程中的一部份。蘇珊·朗思校長說：「獲得認證候選資格對法大而言，是一個重大的里程碑。我們知道本校學生將會從法大在認證過程中，於現有的辦法以及新辦法中受益。美國西區大學聯盟特別肯定法大全體師生展現並落實根植於本校宗旨與價值的『關懷道德』，我們深感榮幸。聯盟人員也觀察到這些價值在學生各方面的經驗中，處處都能看到，包括在課堂上、學生會議中、校園生活裏、工讀計劃、學生活動等等。」聯盟給法大的信函以及評估團隊的報告，都已在聯盟官網公佈，網址：<https://www.wascsenior.org/institutions/dharma-realm-buddhist-university>。

聯盟指出，「候選」意指法大獲美國西區大學聯盟（地址：985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA, 94501，電話：510.748.9001）的認可，具備認證候選資格。候選資格的最長有效期限為五年，此資格意味著該教育機構朝向認證邁進，但並非獲得認證資格，也不保證未來一定能獲得認證資格。❖