



Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

September 2016

Baccalaureate Program in Digital Media at the University of Houston Earns National ACCGC Re-Accreditation

After completing an extensive self-study and hosting a site visit by a three-member team of industry and education experts, the Digital Media program at the University of Houston received national re-accreditation beginning September 1, 2016. Initially, the program was awarded full six-year accreditation commencing on September 1, 2010. The University of Houston program is among 13, associate and baccalaureate level, graphic communications related programs nationwide currently holding this distinction. The 12 other programs are Arizona State University, California Polytechnic State University, California University of Pennsylvania, Ferris State University, Harper College, Illinois State University, New York City College of Technology, Rock Valley College, University of Northern Iowa, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Western Illinois University, and Western Michigan University.

The Graphics & Imaging Technologies baccalaureate level program at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas is currently under accreditation review by ACCGC.

The accrediting agency, **Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC)**, awarded the academic accreditation. ACCGC is an independent body professionally supported by leaders in the collegiate educational area and by the management personnel in the graphic communications industry. The ACCGC Council Board of Directors is comprised of eleven educators and eight industry personnel in the graphic communications field and is dedicated to the improvement and recognition of collegiate level curricula in graphic communications. ACCGC is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt body and is supported through industry contributions and educational accreditation fees.

A formal presentation was made and a recognition plaque were given to the program coordinator, Dr. Jerry J. Waite, Professor of Technology, University of Houston during the September 25, 2016 annual ACCGC Board of Directors meeting that was held during Graph Expo 2016 in Orlando, Florida. The ACCGC board members meet annually during the Graph Expo and Print shows which are the largest graphic communications expositions held in the United States.

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Dr. Jerry J. Waite, Professor and Program Director at the University of Houston stated: “The ACCGC accreditation process was one of the most effective activities I’ve experienced during my professional career. By encouraging my colleagues and me to focus on what’s most important—student learning—we were able to not only gain national re-recognition but also a much better instructional program at the same time.”

A plaque recognizing the six-year ACCGC re-accreditation was presented to Dr. Waite during the ACCGC September 25, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. The re-accreditation period is retroactive to September 1, 2016 and continues through August 31, 2022.



Left to Right: Dr. Thomas E. Schildgen, ACCGC President, Dr. Jerry J. Waite, Professor and Program Coordinator, University of Houston (TX), Barry J. Wilson, (team chair); James A. Workman and Mark A. Rzeznik, team members)

In their “Visitation Report,” the team stated that “The University, College, Department, and Digital Media degree program mission and curricular outcomes clearly meet the needs of the State of Texas and the Graphic Communications Industry.” In addition, they stated that “The students are excited about the curriculum being offered and the opportunities to explore the numerous job possibilities that they are given within the UH Digital Media Program.”

The mission of the ACCGC is to provide viable, credible, and defensible accreditation standards that can be used to promote and encourage sound associate and baccalaureate level education programs in graphic communications. In the accreditation process, the ACCGC strives to stimu-

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late the exchange of ideas between administrative and instructional personnel in academia and within the graphic communications industry.

ACCGC personnel review qualitative and quantitative evidence obtained through an institution's self-study and facts substantiated by a three-member campus visitation team in determining the accreditation status of an institution's graphic communications program. The academic program is evaluated in 14 areas: Mission Statements and Learning Outcomes, Competency Alignment and Outcomes Assessment, Governance/Administration, Financial Support, Equipment and Facilities, Staff Support Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Evaluation, Internships/Practicums/Cooperative Study, Industry Advisory Committee(s), Faculty, Faculty Evaluation, Student Records and Advising, and Graduate Placement and Follow-up.

For more information about ACCGC, contact Dr. Ervin A. Dennis, Managing Director, at ea.dennis@cfu.net. The Council's web-site address is www.accgc.org.

For more information about the University Houston, Digital Media program, contact Dr. Jerry J. Waite, Professor and Program Director, at jwaite@uh.edu, (713) 743-4089.