



New England Commission of Higher Education
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Joint Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education and Anna Maria College

At its meeting on March 6, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) issued Anna Maria College a Notation because the Commission found that the College is in danger of not meeting the Commission's Standard on *Institutional Resources*, specifically whether the steps the College is now taking to build enrollment and reduce expenses will be sufficient for the institution to return to financial stability and compliance with its debt service covenant. The Commission will monitor the institution's progress through a Spring 2026 Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment with a visit to validate its content.

Anna Maria College's President Mary Lou Retelle said in response: We will continue to work in partnership with NECHE concerning the *Institutional Resources* standard. The strong work that has been conducted to address variables accentuated by the pandemic is ongoing. We continue to provide our students with a high-quality, service-focused education that advances the mission that has guided this institution for 79 years.

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. Anna Maria College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1955 and is a private Catholic liberal arts college in Paxton, Massachusetts. Founded by the Sisters of Saint Anne in 1946 as a women's college, it has been coeducational since 1973 and now offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Further information may be found at: New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org>, and at Anna Maria College: <https://annamaria.edu/>.

March 21, 2025