

Summary of Negative Action: May 7, 2026

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

Place on Probation

Bethesda University (Anaheim, CA) until February 2027

The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has placed Bethesda University (CA) on probation status and continued accreditation until February 2027 for the following programs:

- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Biblical Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Christian Education)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Missions)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Pastoral Ministry)
- Master of Arts - Biblical Studies
- Master of Divinity
- Doctor of Ministry

in light of the Commission on Accreditation's judgment that the institution fails to comply with the following ABHE Programmatic Accreditation Standards:

- Programmatic Standard 1: EE 2 (Demonstrated fulfillment of applicable Commission requirements as demonstrated by timely communication, including submission of required Progress Reports by due dates)
- Programmatic Standard 5: EE 2 (Demonstrate with evidence adequate resources, including financial resources, to support institutional mission, achieve intended program outcomes, and ensure continuity of offerings in light of low cash reserves and operating deficits)
- Programmatic Condition of Eligibility 11: Student Body (Demonstrate with evidence sustained and viable enrollment in accredited programs)

A progress report, due May 30, 2026, is required documenting the institution's efforts to address these issues. The institution retains programmatic accredited status for the programs listed above while on probation.

Action Letter

The Meaning of Probation

Probation is a negative, public action indicating that the Commission has determined that the institution no longer complies with one or more Programmatic Standards for Accreditation. Accredited programs retain accredited status with ABHE during a period of probation, and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by Commission staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the Commission must take adverse action and remove programmatic accreditation status. Where there is sufficient progress, the Commission may grant a one-year extension of programmatic accreditation status for "good cause" to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Programmatic Standards for Accreditation. An institution on probation for two years cannot be returned to warning.