



November 13, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Thomas Kruczek, President
Notre Dame College
4545 College Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44121

Dear President Kruczek:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Notre Dame College (“the College” or “the institution”). At its meeting on November 2-3, 2017, the Board voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the College and scheduled the institution for monitoring. This action is effective as of the date action was taken. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the College’s most recent comprehensive evaluation, including but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the College submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council Hearing Committee, the institution’s responses to these reports, and other materials relevant to the evaluation.

The Board required that the College host a focused visit no later than December 2019, specifically addressing the following:

- The College’s progress on implementing its program review process for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Progress on developing measures for evaluating the success of the College’s graduates.
- At least one full year of assessment data for the College’s academic-related outcomes.
- At least one full year of assessment data for the College’s co-curricular programs that flow from its institutional learning outcomes.
- A complete cycle of evidence in which student learning outcome assessment(s) informs operational planning and budgeting processes at the College.
- An evaluation of initiatives that have been implemented based on data analysis.
- Evidence of continued efforts to align resources and expenditures.
- The results of efforts to reverse the College’s downward enrollment trends.
- The results of efforts to build the College’s revenue base through institutional advancement and fundraising.
- Evidence of efforts to align strategic planning, assessment, and continuous improvement.

The Board placed the College on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation (Year 4) in 2021-22.

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the College:

The College meets Criterion Three, Core Component 3.B, “the institution demonstrates that the exercise of intellectual inquiry and the acquisition, application, and integration of broad learning and skills are integral to its educational programs,” but with concerns because the College only recently established a program review process for the general education curriculum and has not implemented the process for evaluation.

The College meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs,” but with concerns because the College has only recently established a program review process for its undergraduate divisions and graduate programs.

The College meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning,” but with concerns because, while an adequate and promising assessment plan is now in place, full implementation of the plan for assessing student learning outcomes needs to be demonstrated with data.

The College meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A, “the institution’s resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future,” but with concerns because the College has not aligned expenses with annual revenues due to an enrollment decline over the past several years, and because institutional advancement efforts have been inconsistent.

The College meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning,” but with concerns because the College has not demonstrated alignment with its strategic plan, assessment efforts, and operational planning and budgeting.

The College meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance,” but with concerns because the College has not demonstrated alignment with its strategic plan, continuous improvement efforts, and operational planning and budgeting. However, important steps have been taken to improve processes and transparency.

The Board action resulted in changes to the affiliation of the College. These changes are reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the College.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. Please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Stephanie Brzuzy, if you have questions about any of the information in this letter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Notre Dame College
Deborah Sheren, Chief Information Officer, Notre Dame College
Evaluation team chair
Institutional Actions Council Hearing Committee chair
Stephanie McCann, Associate Vice Chancellor, Program Development and Approval, Ohio
Department of Higher Education
Stephanie Brzuzy, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher
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