The Higher Learning Commission has placed Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on Probation. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution does not meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation related to resources and planning.

Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Probation is not more than two years.

What This Means for Students
While on Probation, the institution remains accredited as it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. In most cases, other colleges and universities will continue to accept the institution’s credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students interested in pursuing a higher degree or transferring should contact the college or university they plan to attend so that they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that college or university.

Noted Criteria for Accreditation
HLC concluded that the institution does not meet the following Core Components within the HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- 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”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning”

HLC also concluded that the institution meets, but with concerns, the following Core Component within the HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B, “the institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission”

Next Steps
The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than July 1, 2020 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than September 2020. In February 2021, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and whether Probation can be removed.

About the Higher Learning Commission
The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.