Public Disclosure:
Cincinnati Christian University status changed from “Accredited” to “Accredited – Show-Cause”
Effective: June 27, 2019

The Higher Learning Commission has issued a Show-Cause Order to Cincinnati Christian University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that provides an institution not more than one year to demonstrate that its HLC accreditation should be continued. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution is out of compliance with HLC requirements, including the Criteria for Accreditation. Therefore, HLC is asking the institution to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. If the institution has not proven that it should maintain its accreditation after the period of Show-Cause has been completed, HLC will withdraw the institution’s accreditation.

While on Show-Cause, the institution remains accredited.

What This Means for Students
In most cases, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept the institution’s credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program while the institution is on Show-Cause. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Current students should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

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

- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A, “the institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff”
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.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”
- 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”

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

- Criterion One, Core Component 1.A, “the institution’s mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations”
- Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, “the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services”
• Criterion Three, Core Component 3.D, “the institution provides support for student learning and effective teaching”
• Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs”
• Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs”
• 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”
• Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning”
• Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance”

Next Steps
The College will file a report by December 1, 2019, to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the Show-Cause Order. For further verification, the College will host a Show-Cause Evaluation Visit on campus with HLC peer reviewers no later than February 2020.

In June 2020, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with HLC requirements, including the Criteria for Accreditation and whether the Show-Cause Order 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.

Date of Decision: June 27, 2019
Date of Posting: July 12, 2019