Public Disclosure: Wheeling University
Financial Distress Designation
Effective: May 13, 2019

Based on concerns about the institution’s financial issues, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has assigned a Financial Distress designation to Wheeling University (formerly Wheeling Jesuit University) in Wheeling, West Virginia. HLC took this action because the Board of Trustees of Wheeling University recently declared financial exigency.

While under this HLC designation, Wheeling University remains accredited.

The designation is not a sanction. However, HLC also monitors closely the developments at the institution and takes appropriate action when evaluation and evidence result in specific findings related to the institution’s compliance with the HLC Criteria for Accreditation.

What This Means for Students
The Financial Distress designation indicates to the public that an accredited college or university is dealing with a significant financial condition about which the public should be informed. The designation remains in place until the institution has provided proof that its financial issues are resolved, or a viable plan is firmly in place to work toward full resolution.

All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. In most cases, as it is accredited, other colleges and universities will continue to accept Wheeling University’s credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program. 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 institution.

Next Steps
The Commission intends for the designation to remain in place until completion of the University’s previously scheduled comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in spring 2020. Following final action on that comprehensive evaluation, HLC will consider the findings of that review to determine whether the designation can be reviewed or whether other action, in accordance with HLC policy, should be taken.

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 Action: May 13, 2019
Date Posted: May 14, 2019; Updated: Aug. 1, 2019