Public Disclosure:
Wilberforce University status continues as “Accredited – Probation”
Effective: April 15, 2020

The Higher Learning Commission has extended the Probation sanction of Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

The institution initially was placed on Probation in June 2018. It requested a postponement of a required Institutional Actions Council Hearing, which causes the Institution to exceed a two-year period on Probation and requires the extension.

While on Probation, the institution remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction.

What Probation 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. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Student should contact any institution they may plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

Noted Criteria for Accreditation
Initially in 2018, HLC concluded that the University did not meet the following 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 at that time also concluded that the University met, but with concerns, the following Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, “the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective high-quality programs and student services”
- 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”
Next Steps
The HLC Board of Trustees will review the comprehensive evaluation team report and related documents at its November 2020 meeting to determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is now in compliance with all 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.

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