



**Public Disclosure:
Effective: November 1, 2018**

The HLC Board of Trustees acted to continue candidacy status for both Institutes through their announced December 28, 2018 closure date. The action requires the Institutes to immediately notify students that candidacy status will end and both Institutes will be unaffiliated with HLC after that date. HLC's decision was made based on evaluation and evidence and in a manner consistent with its current policies. The best interest of currently enrolled students was also a primary consideration. Going forward HLC will focus on the Institutes' implementation of the teach outs to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the remaining students. Under HLC policy, the Board's November 1, 2018 decision is not appealable.

**Updated Public Disclosure:
Illinois Institute of Art and Art Institute of Colorado
Approval of Teach-Out Agreements
Effective: October 9, 2018**

The Higher Learning Commission has approved Provisional Plans and Teach-Out Agreements listed below. The Institutes sought these agreements in anticipation of a previously announced closure set for December 28, 2018.

Provisional Plan Teach-Out Agreement

Students who can reasonably complete their academic programs within no more than one year from the date of closure can choose to go to one of the following teach-out partner institutions as applicable. Those students also have the option not to participate in the teach out.

Approved teach-out partner institutions:

- Columbia College Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, for Illinois Institute of Art (including its campuses in Schaumburg, Illinois, and Novi, Michigan), and
- Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, in Denver, Colorado, for the Art Institute of Colorado.

Teach-out partner institutions typically agree to accept all the credits earned by the teach-out students at the Institutes and to count those credits toward a degree from their institution, and to award a degree to the students participating in the teach out in approximately the same amount of time the students would have taken at the institution that is closing. Teach-out institutions typically do not require students to formally apply or fulfill residency requirements, and they allow students to take appropriate courses to complete their degrees. Students who choose to take advantage of the above arrangements should contact leadership at their institution for details.

NOTE: The HLC approval referred above does not include Art Institute-Pittsburgh Online Division as a teach-out option. Students should be aware that the Art Institute of Pittsburgh has been placed on a [Show-Cause Order](#) by Middle States Commission on Higher Education. That agency, in March 2019, will consider if the Pittsburgh Institute's accreditation will be withdrawn.

Provisional Plan Transfer Partners

Separate from HLC's approval of Teach-Out Agreements, the Institutes have also provided information related to their transfer assistance activities. Colleges and universities that have signed specific agreements with the closing Institutes and have offered to provide students with transfer assistance appear below. These institutions, in their signed agreements, have documented specific requirements for students transferring from the closing Institutes.

Students who have more than one year to complete their academic program may choose to consider these institutions among their transfer options. Students also are free to transfer to any institution they choose, even if it does not appear on the lists below.

Art Institute of Colorado

- Academy of Art University
- Colorado State University-Global Campus
- Columbia College Hollywood and FlashPoint Chicago
- Front Range Community College
- Metro State University
- Pikes Peak Community College
- Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design

Illinois Institute of Art

- Academy of Art University
- College of DuPage
- Columbia College Chicago
- Columbia College Hollywood and FlashPoint Chicago
- Dominican University
- Governors State University
- Harold Washington College
- Judson University
- Lawrence Technological University
- National Louis University
- Northern Illinois University
- Robert Morris University

Student Records:

Following the closure of the Illinois Institute of Art, student records will be available at The Art Institute of Atlanta at 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, N.E., 100 Embassy Row, Atlanta, GA 30328-1649.

Following the closure of the Art Institute of Colorado, student records will be available at The Art Institute of Dallas at 8080 Park Lane, Suite 100 Dallas, TX 75231-5993.

See HLC's previous Public Disclosure Notice regarding the Change of Control decision below.

Original Public Disclosure:
Illinois Institute of Art and Art Institute of Colorado
From "Accredited" to "Candidate"
Effective: January 20, 2018
Updated: August 24, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission has received official notification that the Illinois Institute of Art and the Art Institute of Colorado are closing. This includes the Illinois Institute of Art's branch campuses in Schaumburg, Illinois and its Art Institute of Michigan campus in Novi, Michigan, as well as Art Institute of Colorado's additional location in Denver, Colo. The anticipated date of closure is December 28, 2018.

The Dream Center Foundation has ceased enrollment at these various locations. HLC is working with the U.S. Department of Education and the institutions to provide the best options for students based on this recent information.

In spring 2017 Education Management Corporation (EDMC) requested HLC's approval of a Change of Control seeking the extension of the accreditation of these institutions after their proposed sale to the Dream Center Foundation, through its subsidiary, Dream Center Education Holdings. During its review process, HLC evaluated the potential for the institutions to continue to ensure a quality education to students after the change of ownership took place. The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees voted to approve the transaction subject to a change in accreditation status from "Accredited" to "Change of Control-Candidacy" for the Institutes effective as of the date of sale by Education Management Corporation. Generally, the period of Change of Control-Candidacy status lasts from a minimum of six months to a maximum of four years. During this status, an institution is not accredited, but holds a recognized status with HLC indicating the institution meets the standards for candidacy.

The transaction occurred on January 20, 2018.

What This Means for Students

Students taking classes or graduating during the candidacy period should know that while the institution remains in candidacy status, their courses or degrees are not accredited by HLC and it is possible that they will not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers. Courses completed, and degrees earned prior to the January 20, 2018 change of status were completed and earned at an accredited institution. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will accept those credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program as they were earned during an HLC accreditation period. However, all colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. 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.

Students considering transfer to other Art Institutes should be aware that the Art Institute of Philadelphia and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh have been placed on a [Show Cause Order](#) by their respective accrediting agency, Middle States Commission on Higher Education. That agency will consider if accreditation for those campuses will be withdrawn in November 2018.

Next Steps

HLC requires that the Institutes provide proper advisement and accommodations to students in light of this action, which may include, if necessary, assisting students with financial accommodations or transfer arrangements if requested. HLC is also requiring that the Institutes it accredits post this document prominently on their respective websites.

HLC continues to follow its established change of control process which included the July 16-17, 2018 campus visit. The HLC Board of Trustees will make a decision related to candidacy status in November 2018.

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.