



**Public Disclosure Notice for an Institution Resigning Commission Affiliation:
Ashford University**
Clinton, Iowa
Effective: December 12, 2013

Ashford University (“the University” or “Ashford”), located in Clinton, Iowa and San Diego, California, and offering courses online, voluntarily resigned from status with the Higher Learning Commission effective December 12, 2013. The University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (“WASC Senior Commission”). Prior to its voluntary resignation, Ashford was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Information for Students

Ashford University will continued to be accredited through WASC Senior Commission. Students with questions regarding federal student aid or other matters related to the voluntary resignation of accreditation should direct those questions to Ashford University. For questions related to this change, students can contact:

Dr. Mihaela Tanasescu, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ashford University
Mihaela.Tanasescu@ashford.edu

For questions related to the accreditation status of Ashford University with WASC Senior Commission, students may contact that agency:

Western Association of Schools and Colleges
985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501
510-748-9001
www.wascsenior.org

History of Accreditation Review

The Higher Learning Commission accredited Ashford University in 2005, following its purchase of Franciscan University of the Prairies (accredited from 1950-2005). In early 2010, Ashford University informed the Commission of its intention to seek accreditation by the Western Association Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC), the regional accrediting agency that covers institutions based in California, as Ashford’s online offerings grew and those operations were based in San Diego, CA. On February 21, 2013, the Higher Learning Commission placed Ashford University on Notice after a site evaluation ordered by the HLC Board following an initial denial of accreditation by WASC, concluded that the University had not demonstrated that it was substantially present in the North Central region as required by the Commission’s jurisdictional policies. The University reapplied for accreditation by WASC

and, in July 2013, filed a report with the Higher Learning Commission that it had achieved initial accreditation by WASC. The University resigned accreditation voluntarily once the U.S. Department of Education identified WASC as the primary gatekeeping accrediting agency for federal financial aid purposes.

Next Steps

Because the University has voluntarily resigned HLC accreditation, it is no longer obligated to fulfill previously-imposed HLC requirements.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. The Commission is a private, nonprofit regional accrediting agency. The Commission's mission is to assure and advance the quality of higher learning. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The institutions the Commission accredits include public, private not-for-profit, and proprietary institutions at degree levels from the associate's through the doctoral degree level and from small, specialized institutions through large research universities.

Students, parents, and others from the general public with questions regarding the Commission's work should contact John Hausaman at the Higher Learning Commission by email at info@hlcommission.org or by phone at 312-263-0456.

Posted: December 20, 2013