Public Disclosure:  
Garden City Community College status changed from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Probation” 
Effective: June 29, 2017

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has placed Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas, on Probation. HLC took this action because it determined that the College does not meet HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation related to faculty and staffing needs, quality of educational programs, assessment of student learning, and improvements in student retention and completion, institutional planning, and institutional performance.

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

What Probation Means for Students
Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Probation is not more than two years.

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. 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 College does not meet the following Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the institution’s degree programs are appropriate to higher education”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning”
- 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”

HLC concluded that the College meets but with concerns the following Criteria for Accreditation:

- 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 is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction by October 1, 2018 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than December 2018. In June 2019, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the 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.