Public Disclosure: Michigan State University
received “Governmental Investigation” designation
Effective: March 6, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has imposed a designation of “Governmental Investigation” for Michigan State University located in East Lansing, Michigan.

The purpose of the designation is to inform the public that an investigation by governmental agencies warrants concern from HLC as the accrediting agency. In imposing the designation, HLC reaches no conclusion about the merits of the investigation or its possible outcome. HLC intends for the designation to remain in place until the investigation concludes.

This designation is based on an active investigation by state and federal officials related to criminal misconduct of Larry Nassar, former doctor of USA Gymnastics and former osteopathic physician/faculty member at Michigan State University. HLC notes implications in reference to its Criteria for Accreditation related to institutional integrity, effective leadership, and processes for complaints and grievances, given the allegations present in the ongoing investigations of the University.

What This Designation Means for Students
The “Governmental Investigation” designation indicates that conditions at an accredited college or university raise serious concerns per HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. While under this HLC designation, the university remains accredited.

In most cases, other colleges and universities will continue to review the University’s credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. 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 University is required to file a report no later than March 8, 2018, addressing the above Core Components and compliance with Title IX federal requirements. Additionally, the University is directed to provide ongoing reports on new developments or related findings with the state and federal investigations into Nassar’s conduct and/or the institution’s compliance with federal requirements.

HLC will continue to monitor the University and retains the authority to schedule additional monitoring, or take other action, as deemed appropriate.

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.