Public Disclosure Notice on
Arizona Christian University
Phoenix, Arizona
Effective: November 3, 2016

Arizona Christian University (the University) in Phoenix, Arizona is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It has been placed on Notice because the HLC Board of Trustees (the Board) determined that the University is at risk of being out of compliance with some of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. The Board took this action because of a number of concerns including those related to autonomy and effectiveness of the governing board; evaluation and improvement in teaching and learning; and resources, planning and institutional effectiveness. The specific areas of non-compliance are noted below.

Understanding Notice
Notice is a public status signifying that an accredited institution is at risk of being out of compliance with one or more of the HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Notice is not more than two years, beginning with the date that the Board placed the institution on Notice. During the Notice period, the institution remains accredited and it has the opportunity to remedy the concerns that led to the Notice sanction.

In most cases, because institutions on Notice remain accredited, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept the institution’s credits in transfer or for admission to a program at a higher degree level. However, students enrolled at an institution on Notice and interested in pursuing a higher degree or transferring should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future to confirm the institution’s admission and transfer policies.

Recent Board Action
On November 3, 2016, the HLC Board of Trustees concluded that the University is at risk of being out of compliance with the following Criteria for Accreditation.

• Criterion Two. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
  o Core Component 2.C, “the governing board is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity”

• Criterion Three. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
  o Core Component 3.C, “the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services”

• Criterion Four. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
  o Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs”
  o Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning”
o Core Component 4.C., “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates”

• Criterion Five. Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
  o 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.”
  o Core Component 5.B, “the institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission”
  o Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning”

Next Steps
The Board requires the University to submit a Notice Report no later than February 1, 2018, providing evidence that the University is no longer at risk for non-compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation that led to the Notice sanction. The University is also required to host a focused visit no later than March 2018, focused on validating the contents of the Notice Report.

The Board will consider the staff report, institutional materials, and visit materials at its November 2018 meeting to take appropriate action, including removal of Notice. If the institution has not remedied the issues that led it to being placed on Notice, action including Probation or other appropriate action may be taken.

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 regional accrediting agency. HLC’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 HLC 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 HLC’s work should contact the Higher Learning Commission by email at info@hlcommission.org or by phone at 312-263-0456.

Posted November 17, 2016