Public Disclosure:
Finlandia University status changed from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Notice”
Effective: November 1, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission has placed Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan, on Notice. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution is at risk of being out of compliance with HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation related Criterion Three—Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support, as well as Criterion Five—Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Notice is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is at risk of not meeting one or more of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. While on Notice, the institution remains accredited and has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of Notice is not more than two years.

What This Means for Students
In most cases, other colleges and universities 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 interested in pursuing a higher degree or transferring should contact the college or university they plan to attend so that they are knowledgeable about their admission and transfer policies.

Noted Criteria for Accreditation
HLC concluded that the institution meets, but with concerns, the following:

- Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, “the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective high-quality programs and student services”
- Criterion Five, 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”

Next Steps
The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later February 1, 2020, in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than April 2020. In November 2020, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and whether Notice 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.