



**Public Disclosure:  
Wheeling University Status Changed From  
“Accredited” to “Accredited – On Probation”  
Effective: February 25, 2021**

The Higher Learning Commission has placed Wheeling University in Wheeling, West Virginia, on Probation. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution is out of compliance with HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

Concurrent with the imposition of this sanction, the Financial Distress designation imposed on the institution in May 2019 is being removed.

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

**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 the admission and transfer policies for that college or university.

**Noted Criteria for Accreditation**

HLC concluded that the institution does not meet the following HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- 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”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning”

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

- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity”
- 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”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance”

**Next Steps**

The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than July 1, 2022 in preparation for HLC's on-site evaluation no later than September 2022. In February 2023, 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](mailto:info@hlcommission.org) or call 312.263.0456.*

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