



**Public Disclosure Notice on
Dickinson State University**
Dickinson, North Dakota
Effective: July 11, 2012

The following public information is provided by the Higher Learning Commission regarding Dickinson State University (“the University”) in Dickinson, North Dakota, to assist current and prospective students and other individuals seeking information about the accreditation status of the institution. The Higher Learning Commission is the regional accrediting agency that accredits institutions of higher education in the 19 states that constitute its region.

Current Status of Dickinson State University

Dickinson State University, located in Dickinson, North Dakota, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; it has been placed on Notice.

Understanding Notice

Notice is a Commission sanction indicating that an institution is pursuing a course of action that, if continued, could lead it to be out of compliance with one or more Criteria for Accreditation. An institution on Notice remains accredited. At the end of the Notice period, the Board of Trustees may remove the sanction, place the institution on Probation if the identified concerns have not been addressed, or take other action.

Recent Board Action

On July 11, 2012, the Higher Learning Commission placed Dickinson State University on Notice. The Commission’s Board of Trustees took this action because of concerns related to the University’s oversight of admissions and transfer procedures; its gathering and reporting of enrollment and related data; its accountability for, and oversight of, contractual relationships related to its academic program; the integrity of the program provided to certain international students; and its articulation of, and consistent adherence to, policies and procedures at the University or other levels. The Board based its action on materials from a recent advisory visit to the University.

The Criteria for Accreditation identified in the Board’s action are: **Criterion One**, “the institution operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students,” particularly **Core Component 1.d**, “the institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective

leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission,” and **Core Component 1.e**, “the institution upholds and protects its integrity”; **Criterion Two**, “the institution’s allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities,” particularly **Core Component 2.c**, “the institution’s ongoing evaluation and assessment processes provide reliable evidence of institutional effectiveness that clearly informs strategies for continuous improvement”; and **Criterion Three**, “the institution provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission,” particularly **Core Component 3.c**, “the institution creates effective learning environments.”

Next Steps

The University is required to file a Notice Report in February 2013. The Notice Report must provide evidence that the University has resolved each concern identified in the Notice action and include specific documentation to demonstrate that the University is no longer pursuing a course of action that could lead it to be out of compliance with Criterion One, Criterion Two, or Criterion Three.

The University will host a focused evaluation in May 2013 to validate the contents of the Notice Report and determine whether the concerns of the Board identified in its July 12, 2012, letter have been resolved. At its meeting in November 2013 the Board will review the Notice Report and the report of the evaluation team and determine whether the University can be removed from Notice and continued in its current accredited status or whether probation or other action is appropriate if the University has not resolved the Board’s concerns that led to the imposition of Notice and demonstrated that it is in compliance with all the Criteria for Accreditation.

July 13, 2012