

Public Disclosure
Grand Canyon University
Designation: Governmental Investigation
Effective: October 30, 2023
Updated: February 6, 2024

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) assigned a Governmental Investigation designation to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 30, 2023, based on an ongoing investigation of the institution by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

On February 6, 2024, HLC expanded the designation to include an ongoing lawsuit filed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in December 2023 in which the institution is a party.

The purpose of a Governmental Investigation designation is to apprise the public of ongoing investigations and/or certain lawsuits by governmental agencies, regardless of merit. In assigning the designation, HLC reaches no conclusion about the merits of the USDE investigation and FTC lawsuit, nor their possible outcomes. HLC intends for the designation to remain in place until the USDE investigation and FTC lawsuit is concluded or sufficient information is available for HLC to conclude that the designation is no longer warranted.

While under the designation, the University remains accredited.

What the Governmental Investigation Designation Means for Students

In most cases, colleges and universities will continue to accept the University's credits for transfer and admission to other higher degree programs and institutions. As all colleges and universities define their own transfer credit and admission policies, students interested in other institutions are advised to seek information on individual transfer and admission policies.

Next Steps

The University will be required to file a report with HLC on the status of the USDE investigation and FTC lawsuit beginning on February 27, 2024, and periodically thereafter. HLC will review the reports upon receipt to determine whether the designation should remain in place or if other actions necessary.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities throughout the United States. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency that 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.

Date of Posting: October 31, 2023

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