Public Disclosure Notice:
Morton College Status Continues
As “Accredited – On Notice”
Effective: November 5, 2020

The Higher Learning Commission has extended the sanction of Notice for Morton College in Cicero, Illinois.

HLC took this action because the institution remains at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria for Accreditation1 and meets the conditions for the extension of Notice set forth in HLC policy. The Board also extended the maximum period of the extension at its discretion based on HLC’s COVID-19 policy. The institution initially was placed on Notice November 2018.

While on Notice, the institution remains accredited and 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 their admission and transfer policies.

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

- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A, “The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff”
- 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 Five, 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”

Next Steps
The College is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than July 1, 2021 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than September 2021. In November 2021, 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.

Date of Action: November 5, 2020  
Date of Posting: November 12, 2020

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1 These Core Components refer to HLC policy effective at the time of the institution’s initial placement on Notice. HLC’s Revised Criteria for Accreditation became effective on September 1, 2020. Since the Institution’s next review will take place after this date, the Institution must ensure that it appropriately addresses the underlying concerns cited in this Action Letter in the context of the Revised Criteria for Accreditation. HLC has published a Criteria for Accreditation Crosswalk, which is available on the HLC website, to assist institutions.