Public Disclosure Notice:
Wilberforce University status continues
as “Accredited – Probation”
Effective: November 5, 2020

The Higher Learning Commission has extended the Probation sanction of Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

The institution initially was placed on Probation in June 2018. HLC extended probation in April 2020.

In November 2020, the Board exercised its discretion to extend Probation beyond the maximum timeframe based on HLC's COVID-19 policy and because despite the university's progress, the university remains out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation.¹

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

What Probation Means for Students
In most cases, other institutions of higher education 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. Student should contact any institution they may plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

Noted Criteria for Accreditation

HLC concluded that the University 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 at that time also concluded that the University met, but with concerns, the following Criteria for Accreditation:

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

¹ These Core Components refer to HLC policy effective at the time of the Institution’s initial placement on Probation. 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.
Next Steps
The institution is required to host an HLC focused visit no later than April 2021. The HLC Board of Trustees will review the focused visit team report and related documents at its November 2021 meeting to determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is now in compliance with all 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 or call 312.263.0456.

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