

Public Disclosure:
Wilberforce University status changed
from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Notice”
Effective: November 2, 2023

The Higher Learning Commission has placed Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, on Notice. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution was at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation.

While on Notice, the institution remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of Notice is not more than two years.

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 HLC Requirements

HLC concluded the institution is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation but is at risk of being out of compliance based on the following HLC requirements being Met with Concerns:

- Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, “Sufficiency of faculty and staff”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “Persistence, retention and completion outcomes”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B, “Resource base”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “Systematic and integrated planning and improvement”

The Institution is also out of compliance with the following HLC requirements:

- Assumed Practice, D.3, “Future financial projections” and
- Assumed Practice D.4, “Effective systems for collecting and analyzing data”

Next Steps

The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than March 1, 2024 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than May 2024. In November 2024, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is not at risk of being out of compliance with HLC requirements and whether Notice can be removed.

To provide transparency for all stakeholders, HLC publishes a Directory of Institutions on its website (hlcommission.org/directory). The directory includes information about a college or university's accreditation status, recent activities and upcoming activities.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities in the United States. 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 2, 2023
Date of Posting: November 9, 2023