



Public Disclosure:
Southwest Baptist University status changed
from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Probation”
Effective: November 4, 2021

The Higher Learning Commission has placed Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, on Probation. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution does not meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation related to integrity: ethical and responsible conduct and institutional effectiveness, resources and planning.

Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Probation is not more than two years.

What This Means for Students

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

HLC concluded that the University does not meet the following HLC Criterion/Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution's integrity.”
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.D, “the institution is committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A, “through its administrative structures and collaborative processes, the institution's leadership demonstrates that it is effective and enables the institution to fulfill its mission.”

Next Steps

The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later February 1, 2023 in preparation for HLC's on-site evaluation no later than April 2023. In November 2023, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the 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 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 4, 2021

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