Public Disclosure:
Wilberforce University status changed
from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Probation”
Effective: June 28, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has placed Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, on Probation. HLC took this action because it determined that the University does not meet HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation related to teaching and learning as well as resources, planning, and institutional effectiveness.

Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. While on Probation, the University remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of Probation 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 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 concluded that the University meets, 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 achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning”

Next Steps
The University is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later October 1, 2019 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than December 2019. In June 2020, 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 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.