



**SHOW-CAUSE ORDER  
WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY**

Wilberforce, Ohio

Effective: June 12, 2104

Based on a recent focused evaluation of Wilberforce University (“the University”), the Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission (“the Board”) determined that the University is out of compliance with one or more of the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components and issued a Show-Cause Order to the University. The Show-Cause Order is effective as of the date the Board took action. The areas of concern identified in the Board action are summarized below. The University remains an accredited institution during the Show-Cause period.

The Board determined that the University is out of compliance with the following Core Components of the Criteria for Accreditation based on concerns related to the institutional mission and its guidance of operations, integrity of the University’s oversight of finances and adherence of policies and practices, a history of the University Board not following processes to make decisions in the best interest of the institution, the sufficiency of the institution’s financial resources and physical facilities, a lack of effective governance and administrative structures, and the institution’s inability to develop adequate and realistic plans to remedy its challenges. These Core Components are as follows:

- **Criterion One, Core Component 1.A**, “the institution’s mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations”;
- **Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A**, “the institution operates with integrity in its financial academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows fair and ethical policies and processes for its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff”; and
- **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,” **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,” and **Core Component 5.C**, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning.”

**Therefore, the Board of Trustees hereby orders the University to Show Cause as to why accreditation should not be removed.**

The University is required to present its case for accreditation by means of a Show-Cause Report due December 15, 2014, or eight weeks prior to the Show-Cause Visit that will validate the contents of the report. The report should provide substantive evidence that the University has ameliorated each concern identified by the Board, documenting that the institution meets each of the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components, the Assumed Practices and Federal

Compliance requirements including the specific documentation outlined in the Board action letter.

The University will host a Show-Cause Evaluation Visit in April 2015 that will validate the contents of the report and determine if each of the concerns the Board identified in this action have been fully ameliorated and all the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components, the Assumed Practices and Federal Compliance requirements are met by the University.

The Order will remain in effect until the Board reviews the University's Show-Cause Report, the Show-Cause Team Report, and the University's response to the Show-Cause Team Report in Fall 2015. Should the University be unable to establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the University has ameliorated each concern identified by the Board and that the University meets each of the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components, the Board will move to withdraw the accreditation of the University at that meeting on grounds related to the University's compliance with any of the Criteria for Accreditation or Core Components. If the Board determines that the University has ameliorated each concern and that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components, the Board will establish a date for the next comprehensive evaluation and any other monitoring of the University.

This Order and its contents are public, and the Statement of Affiliation Status for the University is public. The action letter imposing the Show-Cause Order is also public. The Commission will make these documents available on its website. The University should post this Order prominently on its website; inform its Board, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and prospective students of this Order; and disclose the existence of this Order whenever an interested party inquires about the institution's accredited status.

Updated February 10, 2015