



230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604
312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440
Fax: 312.263.7462 | hlcommission.org

November 6, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Jeffery Allbritten
President
Florida SouthWestern State College
Lee Campus
8099 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Dear President Allbritten:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Florida SouthWestern State College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 6, 2025. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Institution has been granted initial accreditation.

The Institution is approved at the following program levels: Associate’s, Bachelor’s. The Institution is not approved at the following program levels: Master’s, Specialist, Doctoral.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

Florida SouthWestern State College (“the Institution”) meets the Eligibility Requirements, Federal Compliance Requirements, Assumed Practices, and Criteria for Accreditation, including all Core Components, without any concerns.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution has demonstrated that it meets the requirements for Initial Accreditation.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution is assigned to the Standard Pathway. An institution in its first cycle of accreditation undergoes a comprehensive evaluation and is

considered for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 of the ten-year cycle. The Institution will host its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2029-30.

If reaffirmation of accreditation is granted in Year 4, the Institution moves to Year 5. If determined eligible to choose a pathway at that time, an institution that had been granted initial accreditation through the accelerated process, as is the case with the Institution, may choose a different pathway following its comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 to complete the ten-year cycle.¹

HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution's Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

HLC policy² requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It also will be published on HLC's website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Andrew Lootens-White.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Florida SouthWestern State College
Martin McClinton, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, Florida SouthWestern State College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Evaluation Team Chair
Andrew Lootens-White, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission
Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges, Florida Department of Education
Elizabeth Daggett, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

¹ INST.C.10.050, Pathways and Related Process Requirements; INST.C.10.010, Substantive Requirements for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

² COMMA.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements