

June 30, 2026

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Dr. Shonna Riedlinger
President
Ohio Dominican University
1216 Sunbury Road
Columbus, OH 43219-2099

Dear President Riedlinger:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Ohio Dominican University (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, June 25, 2026. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent focused visit, including, but not limited to: the focused visit report the Institution submitted, the report from the focused visit 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 placed on Notice because it is at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. The Institution meets Core Component 4.B with concerns. The Institution is required to host an embedded Notice Visit as part of its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings that led to the imposition of the sanction.

Institutional Disclosure Obligation: HLC policy¹ requires that an institution inform its constituencies, including Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and any other constituencies about the sanction and how to contact HLC for further information. The policy also requires that an Institution on sanction disclose this status whenever it refers to its HLC accreditation. HLC will monitor these disclosures to ensure they are accurate and in keeping with HLC policy. The Institution must submit drafts of its planned disclosures to these various audiences to its HLC Staff Liaison in advance of transmission and provide its Staff Liaison with a link to relevant information on its website. At a minimum, an institution must: i) provide a copy of this Action Letter to its governing board, administration, and faculty, ii) provide a copy of the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice to its currently enrolled students, and iii) prominently display the Mark of Accreditation Status where accreditation status is described on its website. Once disclosures have been made, the Institution must submit copies of its disclosure documents as a single .pdf file to <https://www.hlcommission.org/sign-in/submit-documents-to-hlc/> (by selecting “Information about Institutional Disclosures”) no later than seven (7) business

¹ INST.E.10.010, Notice.

days following receipt of this Action Letter. HLC will retain this information as part of the Institution's record.

Substantive Change: HLC policy² requires that an institution placed on Notice be subject to additional requirements for substantive change during the Notice period and for three (3) years following the removal of Notice.

Notification Program: HLC policy³ states that an institution placed on notice is ineligible for the Notification Program for Additional Locations for three (3) years following the removal of Notice, providing all other requirements for the Notification Program are met.

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:

Ohio Dominican University ("the Institution") meets, but with concerns, Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, "the institution's financial and personnel resources effectively support its current operations. The institution's financial management balances short-term needs with long-term commitments and ensures its ongoing sustainability," for the following reasons:

- While the Institution is currently financially viable, as evidenced by its financial indicators, its financial performance has weakened over time.
- The Institution's liquidity, equity, and viability ratios currently remain within acceptable ranges, but show a consistent downward trend, including that the Institution's Composite Financial Index has declined from approximately 2.64 in 2022 to approximately 1.23 in 2025.
- While the Institution has worked with bondholders to develop potential financial pathways, the Institution's current financial position is heavily influenced by approximately \$47 million in outstanding debt, which carries an annual debt service of roughly \$4 million.
- The Institution's long-term sustainability remains uncertain because its strategic direction remains unresolved.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and the evidence in the record that the Institution is at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and should therefore be placed on Notice.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Notice Visit: The Institution will host an embedded Notice Visit as part of its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings that led to the imposition of Notice and to make a recommendation about whether to remove Notice or take other action.

² INST.G.10.010, Substantive Change.

³ INST.E.10.010, Notice.

Notice Report: The Board required that the Institution submit a Notice Report with its next Assurance Filing at least eight weeks prior to the visit providing evidence that the Institution is no longer at risk for being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and that it has ameliorated the issues that led to the Notice sanction.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution has been maintained on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027-28, to occur in fall 2027.

Board Review: The Board will review the documents associated with the evaluation at its June 2028 meeting to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the finding of Met with Concerns and is no longer at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and thus whether Notice shall be removed, or if the Institution has not ameliorated the findings, or is no longer in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, whether other action should be taken under HLC policy, up to and including withdrawal of accreditation.

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.

In accordance with HLC policy,⁴ information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. This Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than one business day after this letter is sent to the Institution. Additionally, a summary of Board actions will be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. This summary 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. Thomas Bordenkircher.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

⁴ COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ohio Dominican University
Adam Hirschfeld, Executive Director of Student Success and Enrollment, Ohio
Dominican University
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning
Commission
Mike Duffey, Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education
Elizabeth Daggett, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education