Higher Learning Commission

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November 11, 2025

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Dr. Christian Brady
President
Wittenberg University
200 West Ward Street
P.O. Box 720
Springfield, OH 45501-0720

Dear President Brady:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees ("the Board") concerning Wittenberg University ("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 Advisory Visit, including, but not limited to: the Advisory Visit report the Institution submitted, the report from the Advisory Visit team, and the institutional response to this report.

Summary of the Action: The Institution has been placed on Probation because it is out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. The Institution does not meet Core Component 4.B. The Institution is required to host a comprehensive evaluation for Probation no later than April 2027 to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings that led to the imposition of the sanction.

Institutional Disclosure Obligation: HLC policy[1] 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.20.010, Probation.

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

Provisional Plan: HLC policy also requires that the Institution file a provisional plan with HLC for review and approval by the Institutional Actions Council according to HLC's substantive change procedures. This provisional plan must comport with HLC's requirements for provisional plans.[2] The Institution previously submitted a provisional plan for IAC approval but must submit a new provisional plan for IAC approval within 90 calendar days of this letter.

Substantive Change: HLC policy[3] states that while an institution may file one or more applications for substantive change during the probationary period, such applications will be subject to strict scrutiny and are likely to be denied or deferred until after the probationary period. HLC policy also requires that an institution placed on Probation be subject to additional requirements for substantive change during the probationary period and for three (3) years following the removal of Probation.[4]

Notification Program: HLC policy[5] states that an institution placed on Probation is ineligible for the Notification Program for Additional Locations for three (3) years following the removal of Probation, even if 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:

> Wittenberg University ("the Institution") does not meet 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:

- The Institution's Board of Trustees initially approved a budget for FY2026 that projected a cashflow deficit of approximately $10.8 million. Although the Institution now projects a balanced budget, it does so in reliance on the recent discovery of endowment funds that had been released from restrictions, but not yet drawn and the Institution has otherwise nearly exhausted its ability to identify restricted endowment funds that could potentially be released from their restrictions.
- The Institution acknowledged the possibility that its line of credit will be exhausted by March 2026, and it is in need of urgent physical plant repair, with cost projections of approximately $5 million.
- While the Institution has articulated a plan for debt restructuring that would potentially refinance all outstanding debt and increase liquidity by the end of the

[2] FDCR.B.10.010, HLC Approval of Institutional Teach-Out Arrangements.
[3] INST.E.20.010, Probation.
[4] INST.G.10.010, Substantive Change.
[5] INST.E.20.010, Probation.

calendar year, that plan remains subject to successful negotiation of a new set of credit covenants with the debtholders and therefore remains uncertain.

- Although the Institution has taken positive steps toward enhancing its fundraising efforts for the fiscal year, including hiring additional staff, securing a significant cash gift, and identifying new commitments, it is unclear whether this early momentum will continue to ensure the sustained results needed to address the Institution's long-term financial challenges.
- While preliminary data show optimism regarding increased enrollment for fall 2026, final enrollments remain uncertain, and it is unclear whether such an increase will be sustained.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Assurance Filing: The Board required that the Institution submit an Assurance Filing at least eight weeks prior to the comprehensive evaluation for Probation providing evidence that the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance identified in this action that resulted in the imposition of Probation and providing evidence that the Institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance Requirements.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution will host a comprehensive evaluation for Probation no later than April 2027 to enable a team of peer reviewers to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance that led to the imposition of Probation and whether the Institution otherwise meets the Criteria for Accreditation, and to make a recommendation about whether the Board should remove Probation or take other action.

Board Review: The Board will review the documents associated with the comprehensive evaluation for Probation at its November 2027 meeting to determine whether Probation shall be removed, or if the Institution has not provided sufficient evidence of amelioration as noted above, whether other action should be taken, 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,[6] 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.

[6] COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

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. Anthea Sweeney.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gellman-Danley

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Wittenberg University
Brian Yontz, Provost, Wittenberg University
Evaluation Team Chair
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Marla Morgen, 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