



Public Disclosure:
Luna Community College status changed
from “Accredited – Show Cause” to “Accredited – Probation”
Effective: June 28, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has removed the Show Cause Order for Luna Community College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and placed it on Probation.

HLC had issued a Show Cause Order in November 2017 because of concerns related to integrity as well as resources, planning, and institutional effectiveness. While the College demonstrated sufficient evidence of improvement to allow the Show Cause Order to be removed, it remains out of compliance with HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation and has been placed on Probation for issues related to mission; integrity, teaching and learning; and 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 College 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 College does not meet the following HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs”
- 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.B, “the institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “The institution works systematically to improve its performance”

HLC also concluded that the College meets, but with concerns, the following HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion One, Core Component 1.C, “The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society”
- Criterion One, Core Component 1.D, “The institution’s mission demonstrates commitment to the public good”
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A, “The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff”
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.D, “The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning”
- 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.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs”

Next Steps

The College is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than March 1, 2019 in preparation for HLC’s on-site evaluation no later than May 2019. In November 2019, 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.