

Accreditation frequently asked questions



“Creating Opportunities for You!”

#LCCmatters

On July 9, 2018, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) removed the Show-Cause Order on Luna Community College and placed it on Probation. While on Probation, Luna Community College remains accredited.

Luna Community College is fully committed to excellence and is working diligently toward meeting all criterion for accreditation.

What is the Higher Learning Commission and what is the goal of an accreditation agency?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional accreditors that accredit colleges and universities. Its mission is “serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” HLC accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States, including New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Education defines the goal of an accreditation agency “to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.” Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the recognition that an



institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by

institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Is LCC still accredited?

Yes. Luna Community College remains accredited while on Probation.

More information on back

Why was LCC placed on Probation?

Luna has been placed on Probation because it is not in compliance with all Criteria for Accreditation. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at www.hlcommission.org

What is Probation?

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 does this mean for students that are currently attending LCC or that will attend LCC?

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.

Will students be eligible for financial aid while the college is on Probation?

Yes. Federal Financial Aid remains unaffected during this period.

What is LCC doing to ensure that it remains accredited?

Several team committees will prepare a report in response in to the Probation that will be sent to the Higher Learning Commission by Friday, March 1, 2019. Luna Community College will then host an on-campus Probation Evaluation Visit conducted by HLC peer reviewers no later than May 2019. Luna respects the HLC's decision to place the College on Probation, and we see this is an opportunity to strengthen our overall structures and operations and become a premier community college.

When will LCC learn if it remains an accredited institution?

In November 2019, the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has successfully demonstrated that it is now in compliance with the aforementioned accreditation requirements and whether Probation can be removed.

What can a student, employee or a community member do to assist LCC during this period? Luna Community College students, employees or community members are welcomed to share their views, concerns and ideas with College leadership. Comments can be sent via email from Luna's Feedback link at luna.edu. The College will also host several open forums over the next several months. The Board of Trustees also allows for public input at each regular meeting.

As part of building Shared Governance at the College, staff, faculty, students and community members are invited to play an active role on institutional committees that aim to strategically address issues that will make the College stronger in our policies and practices. Luna Community College is your institution and we need your help to make it stronger.

Where can someone get more information on HLC Probation?

A link has been set up to provide the general public with access to documents provided to the college by the Higher Learning Commission and documents that are being used to prepare the Probation report including drafts of the report itself. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website at www.luna.edu. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the Probation can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at www.hlcommission.org.

President's Message

Dear LCC Stakeholders,

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration at Luna, I thank you for your continued support for the institution. I also assure you that we are sincere about ensuring the College meets the HLC's Criterion for Accreditation. Not only for the purposes of restoring our accreditation, but because the process will surely yield a stronger community college.

I look forward to our interactions about how you can contribute to Luna's success. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

Ricky A. Serna
Luna Community College Interim President