

Accreditation frequently asked questions



“Creating Opportunities for You”

#LCCmatters

Luna Community College was placed on a Show-Cause Order in November 2017 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Luna Community College administration went to work quickly on addressing the action and implications of the order. Luna Community College is fully committed to student success and meeting all the HLC accreditation criteria.

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 Show-Cause.

More information on back

Why was Luna placed on a Show-Cause Order?

The HLC Board of Trustees issued the Show-Cause Order based on its findings of non-compliance following a Higher Learning Commission Advisory Visit to the College in June 2017. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the Show-Cause Order 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 a Show-Cause Order?

A Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that shifts the burden to the institution to demonstrate that it is in compliance with all the requirements associated with its Higher Learning Commission accreditation. If the institution has not proven that it is in compliance with all such requirements after the period of Show Cause has been completed, HLC will withdraw the College's accreditation.

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

While on Show Cause, the College remains accredited. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept the institution's credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program while the College is under a Show-Cause order. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Current and future students should contact any institution they plan to attend so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

Will students be eligible for financial aid while the college is on a Show-Cause Order?

Yes. Federal Financial Aid remains unaffected during this period.

What is LCC doing to ensure that it remains accredited?

Several team committees have been tasked to primarily prepare a report in response in to the Show-Cause Order that will be sent to the Higher Learning Commission by Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. Luna Community College will then host an on-campus Show-Cause Evaluation Visit conducted by HLC peer reviewers no later than March 2018.

When will LCC learn if it remains an accredited institution?

In June 2018, 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 the Show-Cause Order 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 with the Higher Learning Commission in writing in advance of the visit in March. It is important to share information on how important Luna Community College is not only to Las Vegas, but to northeastern New Mexico. We also respect and welcome anyone who has different views on the college. The HLC team will also devise an agenda for the visit that will engage constituents on relevant issues while reviewing the institution's compliance with HLC requirements.

Where can someone get more information on the Show-Cause Order?

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 Show Cause Order 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 Show-Cause Order 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

Together, we respect the Show-Cause Order and are working on a plan of action that will include administration, faculty, staff, students and community members. We stand together to successfully overcome this challenge on your behalf. I assure you that this process will undoubtedly yield a stronger institution.

As always, I appreciate your dedication to Luna Community College.

Sincerely,

Ricky A. Serna
Luna Community College Interim President