

# Accreditation frequently asked questions



*“Creating Opportunities for You!”*

In November, 2020, The Higher Learning Commission removed Luna Community College’s probationary status after the college demonstrated full compliance with all requirements for accreditation. The decision came as part of the Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees’ regular meeting.

Luna has been accredited by the HLC since 1982. The college offers approximately three dozen certificate and associate degree programs in seven departments – Allied Health Sciences, Business, Career and Technical Education, Early Childhood Education, Humanities, Nursing and STEM.

### **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.

### **Where can someone get more information on Luna Community College’s accreditation and the Higher Learning Commission?**

A link has been set up to provide the general public with access to documents provided to the college by the Higher Learning Commission. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu). 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](http://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](http://www.hlcommission.org).