Higher Learning Commission

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Public Disclosure Notice

Southwestern College status changed from "Accredited" to "Accredited On Notice"

Effective: November 5, 2026

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has placed Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, on Notice. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution is at risk of being out of compliance with HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

Notice is a public sanction that allows the institution a period of time to resolve the areas of concern. The initial period for Notice is up to two years. While on Notice, the institution remains accredited.

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 HLC Requirements

HLC concluded the institution is at risk of being out compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, and needs to address concerns related to the following Criteria:

- Criterion 4, Core Component 4.B. "Resource Base and Sustainability"

Next Steps

The institution will host a comprehensive evaluation in spring 2028. As part of the comprehensive evaluation, the institution will be required to submit a Notice Report to provide evidence that it is no longer at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation.

At the end of the Notice period, HLC may remove the institution from Notice if it has demonstrated that it is no longer at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria. If the institution is still at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria — or if the institution is out of compliance with the Criteria — HLC may take another action in accordance with HLC policies, including extending Notice, placing the institution on Probation, issuing a Show-Cause Order or withdrawing accreditation.

To provide transparency for all stakeholders, HLC publishes a Directory of Institutions on its website. The directory includes information about a college or university's accreditation status, recent activities and upcoming activities.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities in the United States. 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.

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