



**Public Disclosure:**  
**Bacone College Status Continues as**  
**“Accredited – On Probation”**  
**and**  
**Change of Control Application Denied**  
**Effective: February 25, 2021**

The Higher Learning Commission has extended the sanction of Probation for Bacone College, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution remains out of compliance with HLC's Criteria for Accreditation and meets the conditions for the extension of Probation set forth in HLC policy.

While on Probation, the institution remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction.

### **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 institution does not meet the following HLC Criteria for Accreditation:

- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs”
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning”

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

- 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 resource base supports its educational offerings and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement”
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance”

### **Next Steps with Probation Sanction**

The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than August 1, 2021 in preparation for HLC's on-site evaluation no later than September 2021. In February 2022, 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.

### **Denial of Change of Control Application**

The HLC Board voted not to approve Bacone College's application for extension of accreditation in which the institution sought to be formally controlled or chartered by one or more tribes.

In determining whether to approve the extension of accreditation, HLC considers five factors. It is the applying institution's burden in its request and related information to demonstrate, with clear and convincing evidence, that the transaction meets these five factors. It also must resolve any concerns regarding the transaction and its impact on the institution and its ability to meet HLC requirements. In taking its action, the Board determined that the Institution did not meet these factors.

### **Next Steps**

The Institution may submit a new application for Change of Control, Structure or Organization after six months from the date of this action.

### **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](mailto:info@hlcommission.org) or call 312.263.0456.*

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