Public Disclosure Notice on
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Effective: December 9, 2015

College of DuPage (the College) in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC); it has been placed on Probation.

Understanding Probation
Probation is a public status signifying that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Probation is not more than two years, commencing with the date that the Board placed the institution on Probation. During the Probation period, the institution remains accredited and it has the opportunity to remedy the concerns that led to the Probation sanction.

In most cases, because institutions on Probation remain accredited, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept the institution’s credits in transfer or for admission to a program at a higher degree level. However, students enrolled at an institution on Probation and interested in pursuing a higher degree or transferring should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future to confirm the institution’s admission and transfer policies.

Recent Board Action
On December 9, 2015, the Higher Learning Commission placed the College on Probation. HLC’s Board of Trustees took this action because of concerns related to operating with integrity and governance of the College. The Board based its action on findings from an Advisory Visit.

The Criterion for Accreditation and Core Components on which the Board found the College to be out of compliance with are: Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A, “the institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff,” and Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B, “the institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission.”

The following Criterion for Accreditation and Core Components are met but with concern: Criterion One, Core Component 1.D, “the institution’s mission demonstrates commitment to the public good”, Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity”, Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the institution’s degree programs are appropriate to higher education”, and Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A, “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs.”

Next Steps
The College is required to file an Assurance Filing in February 2017 providing evidence that the College has resolved the concerns of the Board identified in the Probation action and evidence that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components.

The College will host a comprehensive evaluation by April 2017 to determine whether the concerns of the Board identified in its action have been resolved and the Criteria for Accreditation have been met. At its
meeting in November 2017, the Board will review materials related to this evaluation and determine whether the College can be removed from Probation. If the University has not resolved the Board’s concerns that led to the imposition of Probation and has not demonstrated that it is in compliance with all Criteria for Accreditation, other action may be appropriate.

About the Higher Learning Commission
The Higher Learning Commission accredits about 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 regional accrediting agency. HLC’s mission is to assure and advance the quality of higher learning. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The institutions HLC accredits include public, private not-for-profit, and proprietary institutions at degree levels from the associate’s through the doctoral degree level and from small, specialized institutions through large research universities.

Students, parents, and others from the general public with questions regarding HLC’s work should contact John Hausaman by email at info@hlcommission.org or by phone at 312-263-0456 (x126).

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