

# DEFIANCE COLLEGE: HLC FAQs

## Does probation status impact Defiance College's accreditation?

No. Defiance College is still accredited during the probationary period.

## Who is the HLC and what is accreditation?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an association of colleges and universities that have regionally banded together to ensure the quality and continuous improvement of each other's educational program. The current financial concern was expressed during a routine reaccreditation visit by an HLC site visit team.

## What does the status of probation from the HLC mean for Defiance College?

It means that Defiance College has been viewed as meeting four of the five Criteria for Accreditation. The one concern expressed by HLC is financial, a common concern for many colleges and universities in this challenging higher education marketplace. Probationary status means we have two years to address the expressed concerns. We are already well ahead of this schedule in addressing these issues as Defiance College will have a balanced budget by Fall 2023 and again in Fall 2024.

## Does this mean that Defiance College met four of the five Criteria for Accreditation?

Yes. In each of these four instances, the HLC has provided feedback and direction on concerns which must be addressed over the next two years. The process provides a guide to enable the college to enhance our offerings to our students and aligns with the important and ongoing work already initiated by the Defiance College community.

## How will the status affect Defiance's ability to continue to provide a quality education and student experience?

This status is only about finances, not quality. Students will receive credits and graduates will receive degrees from an accredited institution. The quality of the education provided at Defiance College is excellent and is not being questioned by the HLC nor is the ability of DC to deliver a quality transformative student experience.

## As a student, will I still receive my financial aid?

Yes.

## Does DC's status affect transfer credits in any way?

No.

## As a student, am I on probation?

Absolutely not. The probationary status relates only to the institution. Defiance College students will continue to receive credits and graduates will receive degrees from an accredited institution.

## What happens next?

HLC will visit Defiance College in the Fall of 2024 at which time we will demonstrate that we have addressed the stated concern. Many institutions similar to DC have emerged even stronger after addressing a concern expressed by the HLC. The college has already been addressing the concerns by efforts to increase enrollment, retention and donations while also reducing expenses.

## As a member of the Defiance College community, how concerned should I be?

Our level of confidence in our ability to respond to the HLC concern is based on the fact that we have already brought about significant changes in our operations to secure our financial future. While the HLC's feedback has been helpful, the changes that Defiance College is making and has made to its financial model has been an ongoing process with the board, administration, and other members of the campus community. Our ongoing work will result in engaging continued and collaborative strategic initiatives and goals to position the college for long-term thriving.

## What should I do if I have additional questions?

If you have questions about Defiance College and our current status, please contact Dr. Agnes Caldwell, Executive Vice President, at 419-783-1010. For more information about the HLC and their accreditation process, please visit <https://www.hlcommission.org/About-HLC/contact-us.html>.