



**Public Disclosure Notice on
Sinte Gleska University
Mission, South Dakota
Effective: November 5, 2015**

Sinte Gleska University (the University) in Mission, South Dakota, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC); it has been placed on Notice.

Understanding Notice

Notice is a public status signifying that an accredited institution is at risk of being out of compliance with one or more of the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation. The period of Notice is not more than two years, commencing with the date that the Board placed the institution on Notice. During the Notice period, the institution remains accredited and it has the opportunity to remedy the concerns that led to the Notice sanction.

In most cases, because institutions on Notice 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 Notice 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 November 5, 2015, the Higher Learning Commission removed the sanction of Probation and placed the University on Notice. The HLC's Board took this action because of concerns relating to governance, resources, administrative structures, academic rigor, assessment of student learning, faculty, and planning. The Board took this action based on findings from a comprehensive evaluation visit.

The Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components on which the Board based its action 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," Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, "the governing board of the institution 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," Criterion Three, Core Component 3.B, "the institution demonstrates that the exercise of intellectual inquiry and the acquisition, application, and integration of broad learning and skills are integral to its educational programs" Criterion Three, Core Component 3.C, "the institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services," Criterion Three, Core Component 3.D, "the institution provides support for student learning and effective teaching," Criterion Three, Core Component 3.E, "the institution fulfills the claims it makes for an enriched educational environment," 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," Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, "the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs," 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.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning,” and Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance.”

Next Steps

The Board required that the University submit a Notice Report no later than February 1, 2017, providing evidence that the University is no longer at risk of non-compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components and that it has addressed the issues that led to the Notice sanction.

The University is required to host a focused evaluation no later than April 2017 focused on validating the contents of the Notice Report and on the effectiveness and long-term viability of changes at the University.

The Board will review the Notice Report and related documents at its November 2017 meeting to determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is no longer at risk for non-compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and Core Components and whether Notice can be removed, or if the University has not demonstrated compliance, whether accreditation should be withdrawn or other action taken.

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. The HLC is a private, nonprofit regional accrediting agency. The 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 the HLC’s work should contact John Hausaman by email at info@hlcommission.org or by phone at 312-263-0456.

Posted November 13, 2015