



November 8, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

George Evans, President
Kaskaskia College
27210 College Rd.
Centralia, IL 62801

Dear President Evans:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Kaskaskia College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 4, 2021. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the recent Notice visit, including, but not limited to: the Notice report the Institution submitted, the report from the Notice visit team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Board determined that the Institution is no longer at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and removed the Institution from Notice. The Institution meets Core Component 5.C with concerns. The Institution is required to submit an embedded Interim Report with its next Assurance Filing as outlined below.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the rigor of the institution’s academic offerings is appropriate to higher education,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution's Board approved a revised Curriculum Development Policy that is faculty-driven and provides procedures to ensure the policy is followed.
- Student learning outcomes have been revised since the 2019 visit and are publicly available; however, there are a few programs that still need to publish outcomes.
- Faculty use a master syllabus template that is created by the VP of Instructional Services Office and approved by a dean or department chair before distribution to students.

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution engages in ongoing assessment of student learning as part of its commitment to the educational outcomes of its students,” for the following reasons:

- The General Education Assessment Committee maintains General Education rubrics, analyzes assessment data, and identifies recommendations for improvement. Faculty are responsible for mapping these outcomes to specific course assessments.
- The Institution's Assessment Manual provides a clear distinction between assessing and grading. Some faculty can still improve how they differentiate grading a course assignment from assessing a learning outcome.
- The Institution's program outcomes assessment informs planning and budgeting.
- The Institution has defined "co-curricular," created a Co-curricular Assessment Committee, and is reviewing whether its various clubs/organizations are co-curricular or extra-curricular.
- There are clubs/organizations and departments at the Institution that are assessing at least one co-curricular outcome and the Institution can demonstrate how co-curricular assessment informed program improvements.

The Institution now meets without concerns Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “the institution pursues educational improvement through goals and strategies that improve retention, persistence and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution implemented a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan in summer 2019 with goals for improving recruitment, infrastructure, and retention.
- The Institution collects student retention/persistence data and compares results to the National Community College Benchmarking Project (NCCBP).
- Although the Institution conducts limited data disaggregation, it is planning more points for demographic data disaggregation.
- The Institution has ambitious yet reasonable and attainable defined goals for student retention and completion.

The Institution continues to meet with concerns Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has updated its strategic plan, the Kaskaskia College Strategic Plan 2020-2023.
- The Institution's planning processes include employees, students, and the community.
- While the plan lists goals, metrics by which the goals could be measured are not listed so showing improvement over time would be difficult; hence, the future completion of most action items does not appear to be tied to the improvement of any institutional goal.
- The Institution is still in the process of developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) regarding student success, General Education learning outcome results, and student survey results.

- KPIs are not currently tied to planning documents. The Institution indicates that KPIs will be a part of future strategic plans.
- The Institution has a strategic plan and multiple other plans, each developed independently, with teams overseeing their implementation. The plans have an Annual Plan in common, which serves as a spreadsheet of action items from each plan.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution has otherwise demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Federal Compliance Requirements and is not at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria, and thus, should be removed from Notice.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Interim Report: The Board required that the Institution submit an embedded Interim Report with its next Assurance Filing regarding Core Component 5.C.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Board maintained the Institution on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2023-24.

HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution's Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

In accordance with HLC policy,¹ information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. This Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than one business day after this letter is sent to the Institution. Additionally, a summary of Board actions will be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. This summary also will be published on HLC's website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Linnea Stenson.

¹ COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kaskaskia College
Alan Boerngen, Associate Dean of Institutional Assessment, Kaskaskia College
Evaluation Team Chair
Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Linnea A. Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning
Commission