

Public Disclosure Notice

Maricopa Community Colleges – South Mountain Community College status changed from “Accredited” to “Accredited – On Notice”

Effective: February 27, 2025

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has placed Maricopa Community Colleges – South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, on Notice. HLC took this action because it determined that the institution was at risk of being out of compliance with HLC requirements.

While on Notice, the institution remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of Notice is not more than two years.

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 HLC Requirements

HLC concluded the institution is in compliance with HLC requirements, but is at risk of being out of compliance and needs to address concerns related to the following HLC requirements:

- Criterion 3, Core Component 3.A, “Academic offerings appropriate to higher education”
- Criterion 4, Core Component 4.A, “Ensuring quality of educational offerings”
- Criterion 4, Core Component 4.B, “Assessment of student learning”

Next Steps

The institution is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction no later than eight weeks prior to HLC's on-site evaluation, which will take place no later than September 2026. In February 2027, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with HLC requirements and whether Notice can be removed.

To provide transparency for all stakeholders, HLC publishes a [Directory of Institutions](#) on its website. The directory includes information about a college or university's accreditation status, recent activities and upcoming activities.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities in the United States. 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 or call 312.263.0456.

Date of Action: February 27, 2025

Date of Posting: March 5, 2025