

Updates and resources regarding HLC's response to COVID-19

×



Statement of Accreditation Status

as of July 22, 2020

West Liberty University

208 University Drive

West Liberty, WV 26074-0295

(304) 336-8000

<https://westliberty.edu/>

**Previous names: West Liberty State Teachers College to West Liberty State College to West Liberty University (5/3/09)*

The information on this page describes the accreditation relationship between this institution and the Higher Learning Commission. General information about the Commission and the accreditation process is provided at the end of this document. In addition, links to definitions are provided for many of the terms used.

Accreditation Information

Current status: Accredited

Accreditation granted: 01/01/1942

Most recent reaffirmation of accreditation: 2017 - 2018

- [Action Letter \(PDF\)](#)

Next reaffirmation of accreditation: 2027 - 2028

Upcoming or In-Progress Reviews

Date	Event	Description
05/23/2022:	Assurance Review	
2027 - 2028:	Comprehensive Evaluation	

Most Recent History with the Commission

Date	Event	Description
07/31/2018:	Comprehensive Evaluation	Interim Report Requested - IAC found that there is insufficient evidence, as noted above, to merit an interim report on communication issues specifically cited in Core Component 5.B of the team report. IAC voted to allow the institution to select its Pathway based on the finding that the explanation for the team's recommendation does not align with any of HLC's conditions determining placement on the Standard Pathway.
11/14/2017:	Monitoring, Financial Indicator	Embedded in Other Process
06/18/2012:	Financial Panel Recommendation	Accept the recommendation of the Financial Panel, affirming that the institution has addressed the financial issues at a satisfactory level

General Institutional Information

This section provides brief, general information about the institution's organization and scope. The information is self-reported by the institution through the annual Institutional Update to the Commission. Additional information can be found at nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/ or on the institution's web site noted above.

Control: Public

Degree programs (number in each category): Associates (1), Bachelors (27), Masters (8)

Certificate programs (number offered): 2

Off-Campus Activities (This listing was last updated: 12/22/2014; the information may not be current.) The institution's accreditation includes courses and programs at:

Location	Campuses	Additional Locations
In-State:	None.	West Virginia Northern Community College/New Martinsville - New Martinsville, WV; Highlands Center - Triadelphia, WV; West Virginia Northern Community College/Weirton - Weirton, WV;
Out-of-State:	None.	None.
Out-of-U.S.:	None.	None.

About HLC and Accreditation

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is a regional accreditation agency that accredits degree-granting colleges and universities that are based in a [19-state region](#) of the United States.

Regional accreditation validates the quality of an institution as a whole and evaluates multiple aspects of an institution, including its academic offerings, governance and administration, mission, finances, and resources. HLC's institutional accreditation includes all degree levels as well as onsite and online offerings. Institutions of higher education in the United States may also seek accreditation through national or specialized accreditation agencies. National accreditation associations, like regional accreditors, accredit the institution as a whole. Specialized accreditation agencies accredit programs, departments or schools within a college or university.

Regional accreditation agencies are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit degree-granting colleges and universities. There are six regions of the United States which regional agencies oversee. The regional accreditation agencies have similar standards for accrediting colleges and universities.

Institutions that HLC accredits are evaluated against its [Criteria for Accreditation](#), a set of standards that institutions must meet to receive and/or maintain accredited status.

HLC's Criteria for Accreditation reflect a set of [guiding values](#). The accreditation process is based on a system of [peer review](#). Approximately 1,600 educators from institutions of higher education serve as HLC peer reviewers conducting accreditation evaluations for other institutions. Peer reviewers also serve on committees that make up the [decision-making bodies](#) of the accreditation process.

Evaluation Process



HLC accreditation assures quality by verifying that an institution (1) meets standards and (2) is engaged in continuous improvement. In addition, all institutions are required to complete an annual filing of the [Institutional Update](#), undergo annual monitoring of [financial and non-financial indicators](#), and adhere to HLC policies and practices on [institutional change](#).

Peer reviewers trained in HLC's standards evaluate institutions' demonstration of whether they meet the Criteria for Accreditation and make recommendations to HLC's decision-making bodies.

Institutional Actions Council (Decision-Making Body)



The Board of Trustees appoints and authorizes members of the [Institutional Actions Council \(IAC\)](#) to conduct reviews and take actions on the majority of accreditation recommendations. IAC members consist of representatives of academic institutions accredited by HLC, as well as members of the public. Detailed information on IAC processes is found in HLC's [policies on decision-](#)

[making](#).

Public Information



In the interest of being transparent, HLC is committed to providing information to the public regarding accreditation decisions made regarding individual institutions.

[Actions](#) that are taken by HLC regarding an institution's accreditation status are disclosed to the public. Since July 2013, in all cases of issuing continued accreditation, placing an institution on or resolving a sanction, or withdrawing accreditation, the Action Letter issued to the institution is made available for viewing and the institution's status in HLC's [online directory](#) is updated. [Public Disclosure Notices](#) are also issued in cases of sanction and other HLC actions to provide the public insight into the issues regarding that institution.

Complaints Against HLC-Accredited Institutions



HLC allows faculty, students, and other parties to submit formal complaints regarding an HLC-affiliated institution through its [complaints process](#). As stated in [HLC policy](#), the complaints process is designed to enable HLC to review, in a timely and fair manner, information that suggests potential substantive non-compliance with an institution's ability to meet the Criteria for Accreditation or other HLC requirements.

© Higher Learning Commission

230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604

info@hlcommission.org 800.621.7440 / 312.263.0456