

Accreditation FAQ

Donnelly College is committed to student success and to meeting accreditation criteria. This FAQ gives information to commonly asked questions regarding the recent placement of Donnelly College under Accreditation Probation by our accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

[Public Disclosure](#)

[Action Letter](#)

Donnelly College remains fully accredited during the probation period. An on-site evaluation will be conducted no later than September 2018.

Q: What is Accreditation Probation?

A: Academic Probation means that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. **Donnelly College's accreditation remains in effect during the probation period**, during which time we will address HLC's recommendations. Donnelly College will provide evidence that we have corrected the deficiencies identified as part of the probation decision.

Q: Who is the HLC and what is accreditation?

A: The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional and national organizations that accredit colleges and universities. It is a private educational association, not a government agency. Accreditation is an important indication that a college/university is operating acceptably.

Q: Why is Donnelly College on probation?

A: At its February 23, 2017, meeting, the Board of Trustees for the Higher Learning Commission placed Donnelly College on probation because it found the college is out of compliance with assessment of student learning and institutional resources.

Q: What does probation mean for a current student's degree?

A: Donnelly College remains fully accredited during the probation period. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept Donnelly College's credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program. Accreditation probation will have **no impact on federal funding, including financial aid available to students**.

Q: Would a completed degree be recognized by other institutions? Would a student be able to get into graduate school? Would credits transfer to an accredited institution?

A: The decision to accept or not accept credits from another institution, whether accredited or unaccredited, always remains with the receiving institution. Concerned students should contact

institutions they are considering transferring to and determine the answers to these questions. **At all times while on sanction, Donnelly College remains fully accredited and students remain eligible for Title IV funds.** Students will be considered to have graduated from an accredited institution, even though the institution is on sanction.

Q: What are the next steps?

A: Donnelly College is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the February 23, 2017 sanction no later than July 1, 2018 in preparation for HLC's on-site evaluation no later than September 2018. In February 2019, the HLC Board of Trustees will determine whether our institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and whether probation can be removed.

Any additional questions may be directed to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs/Dean of the College, Pedro Leite at pleite@donnelly.edu or 913-621-8776.