



Accreditation Probation FAQ

What you need to know about our accreditation probation

Baptist Bible College is committed to student success and to meeting accreditation criteria. This FAQ gives information to commonly asked questions regarding the recent placement of BBC under Accreditation Probation by our accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). All of the issues identified by the HLC have already been addressed or are in the process of being addressed through changes in policy, procedure, and program oversight.

Any additional questions may be directed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Christopher, gchristopher@gobbc.edu or phone: 417-268- 6000 ext. 6108.

Q: Is Baptist Bible College accredited?

A: Yes, Baptist Bible College is accredited by two accrediting agencies. The undergraduate college received initial accreditation from the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) in February 1978. The graduate college (now known as the Theological Seminary) received initial accreditation in February 2007. ABHE is a national agency that accredits institutions of biblical higher education (Bible colleges). BBC (as an institution) received initial accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in February 2005. HLC is one of six regional agencies and accredits colleges and universities across nineteen states (including Missouri).

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

A: Baptist Bible College remains accredited during the probation period. Other institutions of higher education will continue to accept BBC credits in transfer or for admission to a program at a higher level. Accreditation probation will have no impact on federal funding, including financial aid available to students.

Q: Does probation affect accreditation with ABHE?

A: The College is required to notify the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) concerning its probationary status, but that status does not affect its relationship with ABHE. There is communication between HLC and ABHE, but they are independent organizations.

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, BBC 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. Institutions remain accredited, unless and until the Commission withdraws accreditation.

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. According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Accrediting agencies . . . develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether . . . those criteria are met. Institutions and/or programs that request an agency's evaluation and that meet an agency's criteria are then 'accredited' by that agency."

Q: Why is BBC on probation?

A: At its August 31, 2016, meeting, the Board of Trustees for the Higher Learning Commission placed Baptist Bible College on probation because it found the College is out of compliance with one or more Core Components of several Criteria for Accreditation. The core issues concerned financial stability, staffing size and governance. For more information you may view the HLC notification letter on their website at;
<http://hlcommission.org/component/directory/?Action=ShowBasic&Itemid=&instid=2797&lang=en>

Q: What is Accreditation Probation?

A: Probation is a public status signifying that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. Baptist Bible Colleges' accreditation remains in effect during the probation period, during which time we will address HLC's concerns. BBC will provide evidence that we have corrected the deficiencies identified as part of the probation decision. Once we document we have corrected the deficiencies and complied with HLC criteria, BBC will return to normal accreditation status with no lapse in accreditation. The HLC's Board of Trustees will review extensive documentation and results of a campus visit to make a determination at its June 2018 meeting.

Q: What actions has Baptist Bible College taken and what else must it do to ensure uninterrupted accreditation?

A: BBC has been proactive in identifying and addressing concerns in a manner that demonstrates continuous improvement.

Timeline

- By November 1, 2017, the College must file an Assurance Filing that provides evidence it has ameliorated the findings of non-compliance identified in this action that resulted in the imposition of probation and providing evidence that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation, the Core Components, Federal Compliance Requirements, and the Assumed Practices.
- By December 2017, the College must host a comprehensive team visit by HLC.
- In June 2018, the HLC Board of Trustees will review the team report and related documents to determine whether the institution has demonstrated it is now in compliance with all Criteria for Accreditation and whether Probation can be removed.