

November 8, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Scott Sherwood
President
Nazarene Bible College
1465 Kelly Johnson Boulevard
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Dear President Sherwood:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Nazarene Bible College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 2, 2023. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Board determined that the Institution is no longer out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and removed the Institution from Probation and assigned interim monitoring. This action also resulted in a reaffirmation of the Institution’s accreditation. The Institution meets Core Components 5.B and 5.C with concerns. The Institution is required to host a Focused Visit, as outlined below, no later than May 2025.

Substantive Change: HLC policy¹ states an institution removed from Probation shall be subject to additional requirements for substantive change for three (3) years following the removal of Probation.²

Notification Program: HLC policy³ states that the Institution remains ineligible for the Notification Program for Additional Locations until it has completed three (3) years in good standing as required for access.

¹ INST.E.20.010, Probation.

² INST.F.20.040, Substantive Change.

³ INST.E.20.010, Probation.

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:

Nazarene Bible College (“the Institution”) now meets without concerns, Criterion One, Core Component 1.C, “the institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society, and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution updated and more explicitly emphasizes its institutional core value of “Development of the Person” and has put structures in place to encourage students to embrace diversity and develop skills necessary for responsible global citizenship and workplace success, for example, through its capstone experience courses.

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 conducted an analysis of its established goals based on past performance and student demographics, and established updated and measurable goals to increase student enrollment, retention, persistence, and completion for both degree-seeking and non-degree students.
- The Institution implemented a new retention plan that includes strategies to retain students and improve graduation rates.

The Institution continues to meet, but with concerns, Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B, “the institution’s resource base supports its educational offerings and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has implemented a new fund-raising model that has begun to yield positive results, but it will be necessary to sustain, grow, and track these efforts to secure long-term financial stability.
- The Institution has new goals and strategies related to enrollment, retention, persistence, and completion that are being implemented but that will need to be evaluated for their effect on the Institution’s overall financial stability over time.

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

- In accordance with its new Strategic Plan, the Institution has developed an integrated approach that takes into consideration its connections with the Church, its districts, and its congregations, and has developed a new outreach model emphasizing the benefits of those relationships as related to enrollment and giving.
- The Institution’s renewed attention to its enrollment and giving relationship with the Church, as well as to systematic and integrated planning, are delivering early

and promising results. Ongoing focus on the interrelationships of these efforts are needed to ascertain their overall success and long-term viability.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance requirements.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Focused Visit: The Board required that the Institution host a Focused Visit regarding Core Components 5.B and 5.C no later than May 2025.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution has been placed on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027-2028.

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,⁴ 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. Andrew Lootens-White.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

⁴ COMMA.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Nazarene Bible College
Alan Lyke, Provost, Nazarene Bible College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Andrew Lootens-White, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission
Angie Paccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education