Institutional Stipulations

Stipulations describe an institution's accreditation relationship with HLC, including certain approvals and/or limitations placed by HLC on an institution's development of new activities or programs.

Stipulation Categories

1. **Accreditation:** provides detailed information regarding a voluntary resignation of HLC accreditation or candidacy, withdrawal of accreditation or candidacy, or Change of Control, Organization or Structure transaction

2. **Additional Location:** indicates whether an institution has been approved to participate in HLC's Notification Program for Additional Locations and, if so, at what level

3. **Competency-Based Education:** lists the direct assessment and credit-based competency-based education programs that the institution is approved to offer

4. **Distance and Correspondence Courses and Programs:** provides the level of approval an institution has to offer distance and correspondence education courses and programs

5. **General:** lists the institution's approved degree program levels and, if applicable, program limitations

6. **Pell-Eligible Prison Education Programs:** lists the institution's approvals to offer Pell-eligible prison education programs, including its approved programs, locations and modalities.

7. **Status:** for institutions on sanction or Show-Cause, references public information about those statuses

Accreditation

This stipulation is used to explain the accreditation history of the institution. The text will vary, but it is most commonly used for institutions that have had their candidacy or accreditation withdrawn, voluntarily resigned their HLC accreditation or candidacy, merged with another institution, or experienced a significant Change of Control, Structure or Organization that needs to be noted.

Sample Stipulations

1. The institution voluntarily resigned status with HLC, effective [DATE].

2. The institution voluntarily resigned status with HLC, effective [Date] and became an [additional location / branch campus] for [Institution].

3. HLC withdrew [accreditation / candidacy] from the institution, effective [DATE].

Additional Location

This stipulation indicates whether the institution has been approved for access to HLC's Notification Program for Additional Locations. The Notification Program allows institutions to open new additional locations after notifying HLC and receiving an acknowledgement that HLC has added the new location to its records. An institution must receive approval to gain initial access to the Notification Program. If an institution wishes to expand its program access to a broader geographic area, it should contact its HLC staff liaison.

If the institution has not been approved for the program, its stipulation will indicate that it must go through HLC's standard substantive change approval process:

Prior HLC approval required.

If the institution participates in the Notification Program, the stipulation options are:

1. The institution has been approved for the Notification Program, allowing the institution to open new additional locations within the United States.

2. The institution has been approved for the Notification Program, allowing the institution to open new additional locations within the United States and internationally.

If an institution in the Notification Program is placed on provisional certification status by the U.S. Department of Education on or after July 1, 2020, the institution will be suspended from the Notification Program until its provisional certification status is removed. While it is on provisional certification status, the institution's stipulation will be:

Prior HLC approval required.

Per HLC policy, an institution currently on provisional certification status is suspended from HLC's Notification Program for Additional Locations. If the institution meets the eligibility criteria for the program when the provisional certification is removed, then it will be reinstated.

Competency-Based Education

This stipulation indicates whether the institution is approved to offer competency-based education (CBE) programs. HLC provides different approvals based on the type of CBE program (direct assessment, credit-based CBE or hybrid) offered. Institutions must receive separate approval for each direct assessment or hybrid CBE program offered. Institutions are only required to apply for approval for their first two credit-based CBE programs, and, after that point, they may add new credit-based CBE programs without prior HLC approval.

Note: If an institution offered credit-based CBE programs prior to May 1, 2015, and reported them to HLC at that time, these programs are included in their stipulation but do not count toward the first two program approvals.

The direct assessment approval(s) is listed first, followed by the credit-based CBE approval level.

Direct Assessment Options

1. The institution has not been approved for direct assessment competency-based education programs.

2. The institution has been approved to offer a direct assessment competency-based education program in [program #1].

3. The institution has been approved to offer direct assessment competency-based education programs in [list programs].

Note: Hybrid program approvals use direct assessment wording and are approved on an individual basis.

Credit-Based CBE Options

Institution did not report any credit-based CBE programs offered prior to May 1, 2015.

1. The institution has not been approved for credit-based competency-based education.

2. Approval for credit-based competency-based education is limited to [program #1].

3. Approved for credit-based competency-based education.

Institution did report credit-based CBE programs offered prior to May 1, 2015.

1. The institution is approved to offer [insert # of programs listed in survey] credit-based competency-based education programs as declared to HLC and offered prior to May 1, 2015. Any programs initiated after that date must receive HLC review and approval.

2. The institution is approved to offer [insert # of programs listed in survey] credit-based competency-based education programs as declared to HLC and offered prior to May 1, 2015 and [Program #1].

3. Approved for credit-based competency-based education.

Sample Stipulations

1. The institution has not been approved for direct assessment competency-based education programs. Approval for credit-based competency-based education is limited to the Welding Certificate.

2. The institution is approved to offer two credit-based competency-based education programs as declared to HLC and offered prior to May 1, 2015. Any programs initiated after that date must receive HLC review and approval.

Distance and Correspondence Courses and Programs

This stipulation indicates whether the institution is approved to offer distance or correspondence education courses and programs. Institutions must receive approval from HLC to initiate or expand their distance and correspondence education offerings. The distance education approval level will be listed first, followed by the correspondence education approval level.

Distance Education Options

1. The institution has not been approved for distance education.

2. The institution has been approved for distance education courses. The institution has not been approved to offer 50% or more of its courses through distance education, to enroll 50% or more of its students in distance education (which can occur even via one distance education course), or to offer any programs through distance education.

3. The institution has been approved for distance education courses and programs.

Correspondence Education Options

1. The institution has not been approved for correspondence education.

2. Approval for correspondence education is limited to courses.

3. Approval for correspondence education is limited to courses and one program.

4. Approved for correspondence education courses and programs.

Sample Stipulations

1. The institution has not been approved for distance education. The institution has not been approved for correspondence education.

2. The institution has been approved for distance education courses. The institution has not been approved to offer 50% or more of its courses through distance education, to enroll 50% or more of its students in distance education (which can occur even via one distance education course), or to offer any programs through distance education. The institution has not been approved for correspondence education.

3. The institution has been approved for distance education courses and programs. Approved for correspondence education courses and programs.

General

These stipulations provide information on the approved degree program levels for an institution and, if applicable, any program limitations that are in place. Institutions must receive approval from HLC to offer programs at a new credential level. If an institution wishes to change a program limitation, it should contact its HLC staff liaison. Such stipulation changes are typically reviewed during a comprehensive evaluation.

Note: The stipulation is not a complete listing of approved programs for the institution. In addition, institutions may be required to notify HLC or obtain prior approval before starting a new degree or certificate program, regardless of whether any program limitations are in place. See HLC's substantive change requirements for new academic programs for more information.

Each general stipulation will have the following wording:

The institution is approved at the following program level(s): [could be one or more of the following: Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, Specialist]

The institution is not approved at the following program level(s): [Any of the five not listed above are listed here. If all five are listed above, then the word "None" will appear here.]

[only listed if there are program limits] The institution is limited to offer the following program(s) within the approved program levels listed above: [list programs]

Sample Stipulations

1. The institution is approved at the following program level(s): Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral

   The institution is not approved at the following program level(s): Specialist

   The institution is limited to offer the following program(s), within the approved program levels listed above: Master of Athletic Training, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Physical Therapy

2. The institution is approved at the following program level(s): Associate's, Bachelor's

   The institution is not approved at the following program level(s): Master's, Doctoral, Specialist

3. The institution is approved at the following program level(s): Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist, Doctoral

   The institution is not approved at the following program level(s): None

Pell-Eligible Prison Education Programs

This stipulation provides information about the institution's approved Pell-eligible prison education programs (also referred to as PEPs). Prior HLC approval is required for an institution's first PEP at its first two correctional facilities. Prior approval is also required when an institution changes the modality of a PEP to one that differs from the modalities of the institution's approved PEPs. See Substantive Change: Pell-Eligible Prison Education Programs for more information about HLC's approval and notification requirements.

When an institution has been approved to offer PEPs at its first location, the stipulation will list the location, including the approved programs, program levels and modalities:

> The institution has been approved to offer [program with level] at [correction facility location with street address] in the following modality(ies): [in-person, distance education, correspondence education, direct assessment, credit-based competency based] The listed modalities are approved for use in the PEP context.

When an institution is offering PEPs at two or more locations but has not been approved to introduce all new modalities at its PEPs, the stipulation will indicate that the institution is approved to offer PEPs in its approved modalities:

> The institution is approved to offer Pell-eligible prison education programs in the following modality(ies): [in-person, distance education, correspondence education, direct assessment, credit-based competency based]. When the institution seeks to introduce a new modality in the context of PEPs, the institution will submit the modality change for approval.

When an institution is offering PEPs at two or more locations and has been approved to introduce all new modalities at any PEP, the stipulation will be:

> The institution is approved to offer Pell-eligible prison education programs in any HLC-approved modality at HLC-approved locations. The institution is required to notify HLC when it initiates a new PEP.

Sample Stipulations

1. The institution is approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Smith Correctional, 123 Main Street, Chicago, Illinois 12345 through the following modalities: distance education and in-person. The listed modalities are approved for use in the PEP context.

2. The institution is approved to offer Pell-eligible prison education programs in the following modality: correspondence education. When the institution seeks to introduce a new modality in the context of PEPs, the institution will submit the modality change for approval.

3. The institution is approved to offer Pell-eligible prison education programs in any HLC-approved modality at HLC-approved locations. The institution is required to notify HLC when it initiates a new PEP.

Status

If an institution is on Probation or Notice, the Status stipulation will be:

> See Public Disclosure Notice.

If an institution has been placed under a Show-Cause Order, the Status stipulation will be:

> See Public Disclosure Notice and Show-Cause Order.

Public Disclosure Notices and Show-Cause Orders are published in HLC's Directory of Institutions at hlcommission.org/directory.