The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an institutional accreditation organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. It offers accreditation and pre-accreditation services to degree-granting institutions of higher education, including those offering distance education and correspondence courses. The organization evaluates credentials or degrees from outside the U.S. and has accredited institutions in various countries.

The organization has an operating budget of $11,782,320 and employs 54 full-time and 1,233 volunteer employees. It receives no direct or in-kind support from any sponsoring organization.

In 2020-2021, the organization accredited 963 U.S. and non-U.S. institutions, including 514 public, 425 private nonprofit, and 24 private for-profit institutions. A total of 4,977,819 students were enrolled in these institutions.

The organization conducts comprehensive reviews and accreditation activities at least every 10 years. It has a summary of formal actions for 2020-2021, including 518 substantive changes reviewed, 145 site visits, and 518 voluntary discontinuance or expiration of accreditation.

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