

March 4, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Timothy Gianotti
President
American Islamic College
640 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60613

Dear President Gianotti:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning American Islamic College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, February 29, 2024. 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 Institution has been granted initial accreditation. The Institution has been approved to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies, Master of Arts in Islamic Studies, and Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies. The Institution is required to submit an Interim Report regarding Core Component 4.B no later than October 15, 2025, and an Interim Report regarding Core Component 5.B no later than October 15, 2025.

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:

American Islamic College (“the Institution”) meets the Eligibility Requirements, Federal Compliance Requirements, and Assumed Practices without any concerns.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution engages in ongoing assessment of student learning as part of its commitment to the educational outcomes of its students,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has robust assessment at the course level and has begun learning outcomes assessment at the program level.
- The Institution has not developed and implemented a system that ties course assessment to program assessment.

- The Institution has yet to develop a culture of assessment leading to consistent programmatic improvement.
- The Institution has developed a set of institution-wide learning outcomes. However, assessment of these outcomes is in its infancy.

The Institution meets, 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 reason:

- The Institution is in the process of selling its current location and relocating to a new location. Overall, this move will strengthen the Institution’s financial position. However, the finalization of the relocation, as well as enrollment challenges, leave financial unpredictability in the Institution’s future.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and the evidence in the record that the Institution has otherwise demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, Eligibility Requirements, and Federal Compliance Requirements and meets the requirements for Initial Accreditation.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Interim Reports: The Institution is required submit an Interim Report regarding Core Component 4.B no later than October 15, 2025. The Institution is required to submit an Interim Report regarding Core Component 5.B no later than October 15, 2025.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution is assigned to the Standard Pathway for its initial ten-year cycle. An institution in its first cycle of accreditation undergoes a comprehensive evaluation and is considered for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 of the ten-year cycle. If reaffirmation of accreditation is granted in Year 4, the Institution moves to Year 5 and continues on the Standard Pathway until it completes the ten-year cycle.¹ The Institution will host its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027-28.

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.

HLC policy² requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It also will be published on HLC’s website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

¹ INST.C.10.010, Substantive Requirements for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

² COMMA.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

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. Linnea Stenson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, American Islamic College
Romana Manzoor, Director, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and
College Programs, American Islamic College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Linnea A. Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission
Nkechi Onwuameze, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of
Higher Education
Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education