

It's more than a pat on the back

We will identify our strengths and recognize the significant work that we do. From our student services to our academic programs, we'll identify ways that we're accomplishing our goals.

It's more than a semester GPA

We need to evaluate the areas where we're doing great and also identify what we can do to improve.

It's a plan of action!

The HLC self-study process gives us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate what we're doing well and to identify our weaknesses. More importantly, it helps us develop a plan for the future – a plan for keeping Ferris State University healthy, vibrant, and strong.

What can you do to help?

To make the self-study successful, we need your comments, suggestions, and assistance. You can contribute in many ways:

- Serve on a self-study committee
- Attend "open" campus meetings to express your views and ideas
- Respond to requests for information from the self-study committees (in the form of surveys, questionnaires and interviews)
- Offer your views using the self-study Web site's forum

We value & appreciate your contribution!

What are our goals for the future?

As a University, we've identified several long-term goals and plans. As part of our planning process each year, we revisit these, assess our progress and make adjustments. Our key goals include:

- Become a demonstrable center of excellence in educational quality and student learning
- Develop a University community where all are valued, welcomed and informed
- Enhance the financial position of the institution
- Provide a state-of-the-art, sustainable and safe learning, living and working environment
- Foster collaborative internal and external working relationships
- Foster innovation and improve processes to move the University forward

What can we learn from our past?

Ferris State University has a rich history, a tradition of excellence that has focused on providing quality education, career training and real-world experience. As we evaluate our present and plan for our future, we must also remember to value the lessons from our past.

What do we need to accomplish to remain healthy?

The re-accreditation process provides a time for reflection, self study and examination. Our job is to determine where we go next. What must we do to remain successful, and what must we do to grow, mature and develop?



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**How
are
we
doing?**

**Higher Learning Commission
of the North Central Association**

Re-accreditation Site Visit Spring 2011





How are we doing?

In the spring of 2011, a team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will visit campus to determine how well we're meeting our goals as an institution of higher education.

The team's visit will be the culmination of the re-accreditation process that we undertake every 10 years.

From now until then, the entire University community will be involved in an extensive self-study. We'll examine our processes and procedures. We'll look closely at the ways we work with our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community. We'll be celebrating our successes and identifying areas where we need to improve.

We'll be asking you to participate and share your views. Please plan to be a part of this important re-accreditation work.

What are we doing well? What makes us unique? How well are we applying our mission to our work?

According to our Mission Statement:

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

As an institution, we've identified these **Core Values:**

- **Collaboration:** Ferris contributes to the advancement of society by building partnerships with students, alumni, business and industry, government bodies, accrediting agencies and the communities the University serves.
- **Diversity:** By providing a campus which is supportive, safe and welcoming, Ferris embraces a diversity of ideas, beliefs and cultures.
- **Ethical Community:** Ferris recognizes the inherent dignity of each member of the University community and treats everyone with respect. Our actions are guided by fairness, honesty and integrity.
- **Excellence:** Committed to innovation and creativity, Ferris strives to produce the highest quality outcomes in all its endeavors.

- **Learning:** Ferris State University values education that is career-oriented, balances theory and practice, develops critical thinking, emphasizes active learning, and fosters responsibility and the desire for the lifelong pursuit of knowledge.
- **Opportunity:** Ferris, with a focus on developing career skills and knowledge, provides opportunities for civic engagement, leadership development, advancement, and success.

The self-study process focuses on 5 central criteria:

- Mission & Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning & Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery & Application of Knowledge
- Engagement & Service

In the self-study process, we'll identify and assess our success in these five areas. We'll also consider our success in meeting the four "themes" of the HLC evaluation process.

How are we: Future-Oriented?
Learning-Focused?
Connected?
Distinctive?

For more information about the self-study process, the schedule, or how to contact the Steering Committee, visit www.ferris.edu/hlc