

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaccreditation Process

Updated: August 14, 2009



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Imagine More

Why is it Important?

1. Federal financial aid is contingent upon being accredited. (Over 80% of our students access this aid.)
2. Credits from accredited institutions are transferable.
3. Students are reluctant to enroll at an unaccredited institution.
4. This process helps the University focus on its future and improve the education we provide our students.

The HLC will evaluate Ferris on such things as:

- Admissions and student services
- Diversity efforts
- Financial stability
- General education
- Governance and administration
- Institutional effectiveness
- Institutional resources
- Planning
- Relationships with internal and external constituencies
- Students' achievement of learning outcomes

HLC's Cross-Cutting Themes as Context for Evaluation:

- Future Oriented
- Learning-Focused
- Connectedness (internally and externally)
- Distinctiveness

How Are We Organized?

- 5 Major Criterion Committees
- The Data Committee
- Other Representatives
 - Academic Senate
 - Kendall
 - AFSCME
 - HLC Peer Reviewers – from FSU
- Approximately 100 people – not including the Criterion Sub-Committees
 - Each College and Division is Represented
 - Approximately 45% Faculty
 - Administrative Assistants/Clerical/Technical/Physical Plant/Administrators/Students/Community Members/Board of Trustees are also represented.

Engagement

- By the time the self-study is complete, every individual on the campus, including our students, will have had the opportunity to offer their views and input.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Steering Committee

- Steering Committee
Co-Chairs

- Mike Cairns / Mike Cooper

- Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity
Co-Chairs

- Paul Blake / Abdi Ferdowsi

- Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future
Co-Chairs

- Mike Hughes / Melinda Isler

- Criterion 3: Student Learning and Effective Teaching
Co-Chairs

- Ron McKean / Chris VonderHaar

- Criterion 4:
Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
Co-Chairs

- Doug Haneline / Steve Durst

- Criterion 5: Engagement and Service
Co-Chairs

- Wendy Samuels / Leroy Wright

Steering Committee continued:

- Academic Senate Representative
 - Rick Griffin
- Kendall Representative
 - Oliver Evans
- Administration & Finance (Business Affairs) Representative
 - Rick Christner
- AFSCME Representative
 - Glen Zobel
- Data Committee:
Co-Chairs
 - Kitty Manley
 - Kristen Salomonson
- Board of Trustees Representative
 - Sue Walz
- Associate VP - Academic Affairs Self-Study Coordinator
 - Roberta Teahen
- Self-Study Writer/Editor
 - Sandy Balkema
- Internal Consultants HLC Peer Reviewers
 - Oliver Evans
 - Doug Haneline
 - Michelle Johnston
 - Tom Oldfield

Additional Benefits That Can Result

- Continue to advance the strategic planning initiatives by identifying successes and opportunities for improvement
- Expanding stakeholders' understanding of the mission, vision, and strategic directions of the University
- Provide opportunities for all to engage in advancing the University toward its vision

How can you help?

- Continue your participation in the self-study process by:
 - Participating in Criterion Committees and/or their subcommittees
 - Review the self-study document(s)
 - Join us when the HLC visits campus - Ap. 18-20 , 2011

Timeline

The following is a simplified, tentative timeline to help focus our efforts:

2007 - Reaccreditation efforts were initiated by forming Steering, Criterion and Data Committees.

2008 - The 5 Criterion Committees have started to inventory, collect and review data which will be used to write their draft reports.

2009 - By August 2009 the 5 Criterion Committees will have submitted draft reports to the editor and the Steering Committee.

2010 - The draft Self-Study report will be disseminated for campus and Board of Trustees input.

The HLC Site Team will visit on April 18 -20, 2011.