Higher Learning Commission "Reaffirmation of accreditation" 2023

Presentation for Faculty Senate

April 20, 2023

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Evaluation components

- Year 10 Comprehensive evaluation
- Compliance with Criteria for Accreditation
  - Assurance Argument and Evidence Documents: submitted on April 7
  - On-site visit: May 8-9
- Federal Compliance Review (*remote review*)
  - Various aspects of federal regulations on higher education
- Student Survey

Peer Review Team

The Ohio State University (Team Chair) – Vice Provost

University of Nebraska, Lincoln – AVC, Student Affairs

Indiana University, Bloomington – Professor of Practice

Michigan State University – Asst Provost/EM and Acad Strat Plan

Oklahoma University, Norman – Associate Professor

Fed Comp Reviewer:

Mesa Community College, Arizona

Student Survey

- HLC conducted a student survey in February-March
- Part of all comprehensive evaluations
- Survey invitation was sent to all students
- 1,352 students completed the survey
- Survey asked students to score UWM on various questions
- Students also were asked to submit comments
- Results sent to Team Chair for follow-up during visit

Federal Compliance Review Topics

1. Assignment of Credit, Program Length and Tuition

2. Institutional mechanisms for handling student complaints

3. Publication of transfer policies

4. Practices for verification of student identity

5. Protection of student privacy

6. Publication of student outcome data

7. Standing with other accreditors

8. Recruiting, admissions, and related institutional policies

9. Appendix on action letters from US Dept of Education

Federal Compliance Review - Process

- Remote review of submitted materials
- Reviewer will request syllabi of selected courses for review
- Reviewer may request other documents such as student complaint logs
- Reviewer will submit their report to Visit Team Chair prior to visit
- Team Chair will follow up on items identified by Fed Comp Reviewer

Compliance with five Accreditation Criteria

- Five core criteria with sub-criteria => 18 "core components"
- Each core component will be rated as
  - Met
  - Met with Concerns (results in interim monitoring – report or focused visit in 2 years)
  - Not Met (results in a sanction – probation or show cause)
- Why do we care if we're accredited? Need it in order for our students to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid and researchers to be eligible for many federal grants.

Criterion 1. Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

1.A. The institution's mission is articulated publicly and operationalized throughout the institution.

1.B. The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1.C. The institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

2.A. The institution establishes and follows policies and processes to ensure fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty and staff.

2.B. The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public.

2.C. The governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution's integrity.

2.D. The institution is committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

2.E. The institution's policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, staff and students.

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Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

The institution provides quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

3.A. The rigor of the institution's academic offerings is appropriate to higher education.

3.B. The institution offers programs that engage students in collecting, analyzing and communicating information; in mastering modes of intellectual inquiry or creative work; and in developing skills adaptable to changing environments.

3.C. The institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services.

3.D. The institution provides support for student learning and resources for effective teaching.

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Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement

4.A. The institution ensures the quality of its educational offerings.

4.B. The institution engages in ongoing assessment of student learning as part of its commitment to the educational outcomes of its students.

4.C. The institution pursues educational improvement through goals and strategies that improve retention, persistence and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs.

Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

5.A. Through its administrative structures and collaborative processes, the institution's leadership demonstrates that it is effective and enables the institution to fulfill its mission.

5.B. The institution's resource base supports its educational offerings and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.

5.C. The institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement.

Tentative Visit Agenda – Monday, May 8

8:30 – 9:30	Leadership – Core group (Intros, presentation, Q&A)	
10:00 – 10:45	Criteria 1 & 2	Open session – (Faculty)
11:00 – 11:45	Criterion 3 & 4	Open session – (University Staff)
12:00 – 1:00PM	Meeting with Deans	
1:15 – 2:00	TBD	Open session – (Academic Staff)
2:15 – 3:00	Criterion 5	Open session – (Students)
3:30 – 4:30	Meeting with Regents	

Tentative Visit Agenda – Tuesday, May 9

8:30 – 9:15	TBD	TBD
9:30 – 10:15	Online programs	TBD
10:30 – 11:15	TBD	TBD
11:30 – 11:45	Exit meeting	

Role for Faculty

- Attend open session for faculty
- Read the Assurance Argument prior to the visit: https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/current_projects/accreditation/