2013 Accreditation Reaffirmation Update

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
What is HLC?

• Part of NCA
  - 1 of 6 Regional Accrediting Bodies
  - Required for access to federal financial aid

• 1,000+ Institutions

• 19 States

• About 1,500 Peer Reviewer Corps Volunteers
  - Peer Review Corp Advisory Group (8-10 members)

• 47 Staff
Current HLC Processes

• **PEAQ:**
  Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality
  - Assurance and Advancement Reviews

• **AQIP:**
  Academic Quality Improvement Program
  - Quality Improvement Projects/Checkups

• **Other:**
  Initiation, Candidacy, etc.
The Current PEAQ Process

Annual Institutional Data Update → Multi-Year Self-Study Process → Comprehensive Self-Study Report → Comprehensive Visit (10-14 Members, 3.5 days) → Team Report → Reaffirmation Decision

Years 1-7 ← Years 8-9 ← Year 10

10 Years
Recent University of Akron History with HLC

• 1996 (February) Focus Visit – Governance
• 1996 (April) Second Focus Visit – Governance
• 1997 Comprehensive Visit – 5 Year Reaffirmation
  (follow up item – planning and budgeting)
• 2000 Focus Visit – Planning and Budget Allocation
• 2003 Site Visit – 10 Year Reaffirmation
  (follow up items – assessment and governance)
Recent University of Akron History with HLC

• 2005 Request for Clarification (Wayne College)

• 2007-2011 Assessment Academy

• 2008 Reports and Visits on Governance and First Additional Location (Medina)

• 2011 Progress Report on Governance (University Council)

• 2012 Additional Location Visits (Tallmadge High School and Stark State College)
Our Self-Study (2011 – 2013)

• Vision 2020

• Undergraduate Student Academic Success

• Graduate Student Academic Success
Steering Committee

- Mike Sherman
- Julie Burdick
- David Cummins
- Kelly Daw
- Roberta DePompeoi
- Mary Dingler
- Dominic Donofrio
- Rudy Fenwick
- Ravi Krovi
- Sharalyn Laster
- Stacey Moore
- Nathan Mortimer
- Karla Mugler
- Emeka Ofobike
- Rex Ramsier
- Elizabeth Reilly
- Alvaro Rodriguez
- Harvey Sterns
- Nancy Stokes
- Linda Subich
- Christopher Tankersley
New Criteria (Effective January 2013)

**Criterion One:** Mission

**Criterion Two:** Ethical and Responsible Conduct

**Criterion Three:** Teaching and Learning - Quality, Resources, Support

**Criterion Four:** Teaching and Learning - Evaluation and Improvements

**Criterion Five:** Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

**Federal Compliance Requirements/Assumed Practices**
Teams

Criterion One: Mission
Team: 5 Faculty, 1 Staff  Lead: Julie Burdick

Criterion Two: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
Team: 4 Faculty, 4 Staff  Lead: Elizabeth Reilly

Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning - Quality, Resources, Support
Team: 4 Faculty, 6 Staff  Lead: Stacey Moore

Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning - Evaluation and Improvements
Team: 4 Faculty, 5 Staff  Lead: Linda Subich

Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Team: 4 Faculty, 3 Staff  Lead: Harvey Sterns

Federal Compliance Requirements/Assumed Practices
Team: 2 Faculty, 3 Staff  Lead: David Cummins and Nathan Mortimer
Current Timeline

- **Spring 2012**
  - Implement Vision 2020
  - Implement Pathways to Undergraduate Student Academic Success
  - Analyze Graduate Student Academic Success
  - Prepare rough drafts of the self-study report sections

- **Summer 2012**
  - Compile/vet/edit draft self-study report
  - Work with HLC on proposed site-visit team leader and membership

- **Fall 2012**
  - Finalize self-study report after broad campus input
  - Prepare campus for site-visit
Current Timeline

• **December 2012**
  Submit complete self-study to HLC
  Public announcements and 3rd party comments

• **Spring 2013**
  Continue preparing campus for site-visit

• **March 3-6, 2013**
  Site-visit
  Board of Trustees members needed

• **Summer 2013**
  HLC decision on reaffirmation and future processes
Future HLC Process

- PEAQ
  - Standard Pathway
  - Open Pathway
- AQIP
  - AQIP Pathway
- OTHER
  - OTHER
Standard Pathway Institutions

• History of HLC follow up items (e.g. assessment and governance)

• Undergoing dynamic change (e.g. Vision 2020 and Undergraduate Student Academic Success)

• Frequent substantive change approvals (e.g. additional locations)
Future HLC Process: The Standard Pathway

- **Annual Institutional Data and Evidence Filing**
  - 2013-2017

- **Assurance Argument, Review, and Site-Visit** (3 – 7 Members, 1.5 days)
  - 2017

- **Institutional Data and Evidence Filing & Visits as Required**
  - 2017-2021

- **Assurance Argument, Review, and Site-Visit** (3 – 7 Members, 1.5 days) & Reaffirmation Decision
  - 2023

10 Years
Questions?

http://www.uakron.edu/hlc