With respect to the future HLC Pathways, we request consideration for the Standard Pathway. This request is based on our past history of follow up required by HLC, the number of additional locations that we have recently added and the changes that are taking place with respect to our implementation of Vision 2020.

**The University of Akron**

The University of Akron is a comprehensive metropolitan institution serving more than 28,000 students in Akron, Ohio. As one of the 34 public institutions of the University System of Ohio, we offer degrees ranging from Associates to Doctoral across many disciplinary fields of study. Our excellent faculty and facilities, regional and national reputation and impact, and growing list of alumni speak to our role in higher education in the Northeast Ohio region and beyond.

**Vision 2020: A New Gold Standard of University Performance**

Mission: To ensure student success and leverage our region’s unique assets in the creation of knowledge and application of research that benefits humankind.

Vision: To set a new standard for public research universities in adding economic value and enriching lives.

Visit [www.uakron.edu/vision2020](http://www.uakron.edu/vision2020) to learn more about this new strategic plan.

Finally, some important institutional context is needed. Within the University System of Ohio, UA is the only comprehensive institution to have within its structure a unit that is in essence a community college. Summit College, formerly named the The Community and Technical College, offers, on main campus, more than 20 Associates degrees. In addition, it offers more than ten technically-oriented bachelors degrees. This current structure has an impact on the profile of UA’s undergraduate student body and degree completion data. Furthermore, the University’s only branch campus, Wayne College, which is located in Orrville, Ohio has its own HLC accreditation separate from main campus, and is therefore not formally included at length in this self-study.
Comprehensive Self-Study for The Higher Learning Commission

The campus-wide self-study process spanned more than 18 months and involved many constituency groups and their representatives on the Steering Committee and Criteria Teams. We submit this document as part of the preparation for our scheduled Comprehensive Site Visit on March 3 - 6, 2013.

The University of Akron believes that it has provided sufficient evidence to ensure that it meets all of the new Criteria and Core Components for reaffirmation of accreditation that will be in effect January 2013.

As one of the first campuses to write a comprehensive self-study addressing the new Criteria, and understanding the future Pathways for accreditation, we have attempted to be as concise as possible in providing evidence for each Core Component without embellishing narrative. Therefore, this self-study report may not be as long or as vivid as those prepared in the past, but the campus involvement and comprehensive vetting processes were nevertheless robust.

Our overall strengths revealed through this self-study process include:

- Vision 2020 - our new strategic plan;
- Our roles in innovation, commercialization, licensing and community wellbeing;
- The Akron Experience - a new model to integrate our wide variety of co-curricular learning for our students;
- Substantial IT and student support services;
- Emphasis on inclusive excellence and diversity;
- Effective policies, oversight and support services to ensure integrity and ethical practices in all that we do;
- Substantive faculty oversight and control of our curriculum;
- Robust monitoring of faculty and staff hiring, credentials and performance;
- Systematic program review;
- Policies and practices related to transfer of credit and other academic matters;
- Disciplinary accreditations;
- Significant levels of shared governance through Faculty Senate and University Council;
- Open sharing and use of comprehensive data and analyses to inform decision making, and
- A relatively new integrated approach to planning and budgeting.

Our overall challenges revealed through this self-study process include:

- Growing and diversifying our revenue streams;
- Maintaining affordability for our students in the presence of shrinking State support;
- Expanding and strengthening our process of integrated planning and budgeting;
- Increasing the use of online delivery of courses and programs;
- Improving retention, persistence and graduation rates;
- Increasing the numbers of tenure-track faculty and their interactions with our students;
- Expanding our research portfolio;
- Finalizing reform of our General Education curriculum;
- Developing a more robust and consistent program for assessing student learning outcomes; and
- Maintaining the momentum we currently have with our new enrollment management and shared governance models.

Please visit uakron.edu/hlc/public if you would like to review our complete self-study report, or to submit a comment regarding UA to the HLC.