HLC Accreditation Visit:

Overview and Current Campus Activities

HLC Executive Team

October 10, 2014
Presentational Overview

• Creighton University Accreditation with HLC
  – History
  – Open Pathway
  – Criteria and Requirements
• Process Timeline
• HLC Executive Team
• Campus Participation
Creighton University Accreditation

• Creighton has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1916

• Last Reaffirmation of Accreditation visit—2006-2007

• Next Reaffirmation visit—2016-2017
Why Accreditation?

- Assures a high quality educational experience to the public
- Necessary for Federal student financial assistance programs
- Accredited degree programs (grad, professional) require institutional accreditation
- Necessary for transfer of credits
Creighton Accreditation: On the Open Pathway

Open Pathway 2 components:

- Quality Improvement Project (QIP)
  - QIP proposal approved February 2014
  - Project report August 2016

- Assurance Review
Quality Initiative

- Institutional Effectiveness
  - Quality assurance and accountability
  - Use of data and evidence for decision making/planning

- Program Review
  - 7 year cycle
  - 3 year cycle new programs
  - Specialized accreditation

- Annual Educational Effectiveness Indicators
  - Program or Department Annual Report
Quality Initiative Project

• **Implementing**: Annual academic effectiveness indicators
• **Implementing**: Institution-wide Program Review process
  – Develop a repository that is university-wide
• **Implementing**: New Program Approval process as part of institution-wide academic planning

• Links processes for assessment of student learning, evaluation of operations, planning and budgeting (i.e., Core Component 5D: Institutional Effectiveness--currently one of the most frequently cited deficits across institutions)
Creighton Accreditation:
On the Open Pathway

Open Pathway 2 components:

– Assurance Argument (formerly the self-study)
  • 35,000 word assurance argument supported by Evidence file (highly structured format) December 2016

– Ongoing reporting requirements
  • Annual (AIDU)
  • Federal Compliance Report
Assurance Argument

Revised HLC Criteria

1: Mission
2: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
3: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support
4: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Improvement

For a complete listing of criteria:
Assurance Argument
Federal Compliance

- Assignment of Credits, Program Length, and Tuition
- Student Complaints
- Transfer Policies
- Practices for Verification of Student Identity
- Title IV Program Responsibilities
- Required Information for Students and the Public
- Advertising and Recruitment Materials and Other Public Information
- Review of student Outcome Data
- Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies
- Public Notification of Opportunity to Comment

For a complete list: http://www.ncahlc.org/Policies/federal-compliance-program.html
Process Timeline
(major milestones)

2014
- HLC Executive Team Formed
- Campus Conversations/Orientations
- Team Meetings

2015
- Writing Teams/Rough Draft
- Campus Feedback

2016
- August: QIP Report
- December: Submission of Federal Compliance
- December: Submission of Assurance Review

Spring 2017 Accreditation Site Visit
HLC Executive Team

• Tasked with overseeing the planning for and the work of the campus in preparing our institutional accreditation documents in preparation for the HLC visit in 2016-2017.

• Members of the Executive Team will serve as Accreditation Report Team (co) chairs and be responsible for drafting the self-study/assurance argument document
HLC Executive Team Members

Provost Ed O’Connor (chair)
Gail Jensen (co-chair)
Mary Ann Danielson (co-chair)
Tracy Chapman
Mary Kunes-Connell
Brenda Coppard
Kevin Graham
Patricia Hall
Michele King
LuAnn Schwery
Tricia Sharrar
Campus Involvement

• Preparing for Accreditation is a university-wide activity
• Campus involvement will include
  – HLC Resource Team
  – Fall 2014 informational sessions
  – 2014/2015 listening sessions
How can You be involved?

• Attend a Fall Informational Session
• Attend 2014-2015 “listening sessions” and contribute reflections on and evidence for Assurance Argument (self-study)
• Review drafts of the document (2015-2016)

• Ask questions and stay informed: Contact_Us-HLC@creighton.edu
For additional information: http://www.creighton.edu/accreditation/