

HLC Accreditation FAQs

Q: What is the purpose of the Comprehensive Evaluation?

A: The purpose of the periodic Comprehensive Evaluation is to ensure that the university remains in compliance with HLC's criteria for accreditation. The Comprehensive Evaluation also includes a Federal Compliance Review, which will ensure that we are complying with specific regulations set by the U.S. Department of Education and fulfilling our responsibilities under the Title IV program.

Q: Is this an application to renew our accreditation?

A: In essence, yes. But it is also an excellent opportunity for us to examine our own performance in a wide variety of areas and to receive feedback that we can use for continual improvement.

Q: Were any concerns expressed in our last Comprehensive Evaluation?

A: While we were given no formal requirements for additional monitoring in our most recent review, the Peer Evaluation Team report did indicate some areas of concern:

1. Our general education program was unfocused and not formally evaluated.
2. The distinction between graduate and undergraduate level coursework was not consistently defined and applied, especially in dual-level courses.
3. We did not have a documented record of using the results of assessment—both of our academic programs and of our policies and processes—to make improvements.

Q: Have we addressed these concerns?

A: Yes, we have responded vigorously to all of these concerns. In fact, our general education program is now considered a national model, our evaluation processes are systematically applied and embedded within campus processes and the campus culture, and we have done a thorough review of our dual-level courses, resulting in specific rubrics to evaluate and improve the design of our dual-level course.

Q: Will the results of this evaluation determine whether the university remains On Notice with HLC?

A: No, the results of the On Notice designation will be determined by an entirely separate process. We are working with HLC on that issue, filing quarterly reports and updating them as needed.

Q: I have some ideas for the Assurance Argument. Is it too late for me to provide some input?

A: The Assurance Argument is “locked down” for this visit, which means that we cannot add any more information or text except in response to requests from the Peer Review Team. However, if you think there is information that the Peer Review Team should have, please send it to our Charlie Hill, our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). If nothing else, he will ensure that it is incorporated into our next report, which will be due in 4 years.

Q: Can I meet with the Peer Review Team while they are on campus?

A: Yes, the schedule includes open sessions for faculty, staff, and students. We encourage you to make every effort to attend one of these sessions.

Q: What should I do to prepare for the May 21-22 Peer Review Team visit?

A: Go to the UW Oshkosh Accreditation Website (hlc.uwosh.edu) and read the section, “Preparing for the Peer Review Team Visit.”

Q: How can I help ensure that we have a successful visit and review?

A: Address the peer reviewers’ questions and please remember that their time on campus is very limited. More important, in your interactions with the peer reviewers, be open and honest, just as you would in any other professional situation.

Q: Who can I talk to if I want more information or have a question?

A: Charlie Hill, Acting Associate Vice Chancellor
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