

What is Accreditation?



- **Voluntary quality assurance process developed by American colleges and universities**
- **Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1915**
- **Required for**
 - Graduates futures plans (licensure exams, graduate school admission, etc.)
 - Institutional participation in federally funded programs (student financial aid, etc)

Accreditation 2015-16



- Michigan State's tenth year in the accreditation cycle is 2015-16
- Now institutions have accreditation pathway options
- Michigan State has selected the new "Open Pathway"
- The Open Pathway has two components:
 - Quality Assurance (QA)
 - Quality Initiative (QI)

Quality Assurance (QA)



Changes have been made to:

- **Criteria for accreditation**
- **Document we produce**
- **Site-visit team**

Criteria for Accreditation



- **Five Criteria**
 - Mission
 - Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
 - Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
 - Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
 - Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

- **Core Components**
- **Sub-Components**

Documentation



- No institutional self study
- No special emphasis
- Different expectation of campus engagement

Campus engagement is a critical part of the process, but it is much more focused and specific.

Evidence File



- **On line portal developed by and housed at HLC**
- **Core components of each criterion are addressed**
 - Short and focused narrative addressing each core component including sub-components
 - Evidence embedded in the text (tags, links, etc.)
 - 70-80 page document
 - Limited to 35,000 words

Visiting Team



- **Access to portal 4 weeks prior to visit**
- **Smaller visiting team**
- **Fewer meetings**
- **Shortened time frame**

Quality Initiative (QI)



- The HLC now allows an institution to design and propose its own Quality Initiative to suit its present concerns or aspirations.
- Our QI is focused on the Neighborhoods and their impact on student academic success, i.e., retention, persistence and graduation.

QI Process



- This is our 7th year, in our ten-year accreditation cycle, when our QI Proposal is due; it will be submitted in May
- QI Proposal is reviewed by both HLC staff and peers for:
 - The sufficiency of the scope & significance
 - The clarity of purpose
 - Evidence of commitment & capacity
 - Appropriateness of the timeline

QI Process- continued



- They provide feedback in a collegial conversation and then approve the proposal
- Following approval, there is no formal contact with HLC regarding the QI until Year 9 (2014-15)

QI Report



- **In Year 9 (2014-15) we prepare and submit a QI Report**
- **It is screened by the HLC staff for completeness and then forwarded for peer review**

QI Conclusion



- The peer review conclusion is simply a yes/no check that the institution has met the expectation of a genuine effort in its QI
- The peer review conclusion does not receive further review, e.g., the site visit team does not see this report
- The QI conclusion will be joined with the recommendations on the Assurance Review and the team visit in the Commission's decision-making process

QI Context via HLC



- HLC has stated in both literature and at the Annual Meeting that the QI is something that should stretch the institution in a significant “cutting edge” manner with the aim of major advancement in the area of the QI
- They want institutions to take risks and pursue initiatives that can truly make a positive difference

Neighborhood Leadership



- **Teams that are currently involved with Michigan State's Quality Initiative are:**
 - The Neighborhood Policy Leadership Team
 - The Neighborhood Core Teams
 - The Neighborhood Pillar Committees
 - A Neighborhood Assessment Leadership Team
 - A Faculty Team on Academic Interventions

Timeline



**QI
Proposal
Due May
2013**

**QI
Proposal
Review
by HLC
Staff &
Peers
Fall 2013**

**QI Rpt.
Due 9th
Year
(2014-15)**

**QI
Report
Review
2014-15**



**Steering
Comm.
Formed
Summer
2013**

**Work
Groups
Formed
Fall 2013**

**Work
Grs.
Input to
QA Doc.
2014-15**

**QA Doc.
Final Fall
2015;
Site Visit
Sp. 2016**

Accreditation 2015-16



Questions