HLC 2021
Reaffirmation of Accreditation

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HLC 2021 Mission

Our mission is to plan and execute the necessary tasks to ensure the successful Reaffirmation of Accreditation following the HLC Comprehensive Evaluation in 2020-21.

Website: https://hlc2021.arizona.edu/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role and Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Goldberg</td>
<td>Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Burd</td>
<td>Senior Vice Provost, HLC Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Coonan</td>
<td>Exec Director Curricular Affairs, HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>HLC Accreditation Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Mills</td>
<td>Regents Professor, Anthropology, Co-Chair, HLC Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Miesfeld</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor and Head, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Co-Chair, HLC Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Williams</td>
<td>Project Support - Federal Compliance Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kat Francisco</td>
<td>HLC Admin - Criteria for Accreditation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HLC 2021 Criteria Committee Co-Chairs

Criterion 1 Mission
Co-Chair: Meg Lota Brown  Co-Chair: Jessica Summers

Criterion 2 Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
Co-Chair: Sangita Pawar  Co-Chair: Helena Rodrigues

Criterion 3 Teaching and Learning Resources and Support
Co-Chair: Lisa Elfring  Co-Chair: Susan Miller-Cochran  Co-Chair: Melody Buckner

Criterion 4 Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
Co-Chair: Christine Salvesen  Co-Chair: Elaine Marchello

Criterion 5 Resources, Planning, Institutional Effectiveness
Co-Chair: Tim Schwab  Co-Chair: Kathy Whisman
HLC Criteria for Accreditation *

Criterion 1 Mission
The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

Criterion 2 Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Criterion 3 Teaching and Learning Resources and Support
The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Criterion 4 Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Criterion 5 Resources, Planning, Institutional Effectiveness
The institution’s resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

* Excerpted from the Official HLC Resource Guide, included in folder
OPEN PATHWAY 10-YEAR CYCLE

YEARS 1-3
PREPARE ASSURANCE FILING
Institutions may contribute documents to the Evidence File and begin writing Assurance Argument for Year 4 Assurance Review.

YEARS 4
ASSURANCE REVIEW
Institutions Submit Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File).
Peer Reviews Conduct Assurance Review (no visit).
HLC Decision Making: Acceptance of or action on Assurance Review.

YEARS 5-7
QUALITY INITIATIVE PROPOSAL
Institutions Submit Quality Initiative Proposal no later than August 31 of Year 5. May also begin preparing Assurance Filing for Year 10 comprehensive evaluation.
Peer Reviews Review Quality Initiative Proposal.

YEARS 7-9
QUALITY INITIATIVE REPORT
Institutions Submit Quality Initiative Report no later than August 31 of Year 7. May also continue preparing Assurance Filing for Year 10 comprehensive evaluation.
Peer Reviews Review Quality Initiative Report.

YEAR 10
COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION
Institutions Submit comprehensive evaluation materials.
Peer Reviews Conduct comprehensive evaluation (with visit).
HLC Decision Making: Take action on comprehensive evaluation.

* Excerpted from the Official HLC Resource Guide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>Dry-run of Federal Compliance Worksheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2018</td>
<td>Committee Co-Chairs Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2018</td>
<td>Kickoff Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2019</td>
<td>Campus-wide review of evidence to identify gaps (for each criterion)</td>
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<td>Mar 2019</td>
<td>Initiate changes based on campus-wide review</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Dry-run upload of Evidence File data to Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2019</td>
<td>Submit Quality Initiative report (Academic Affairs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2019</td>
<td>Elaborated outline of Assurance Argument (for each criterion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2019</td>
<td>First round upload of Evidence File data to Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2020</td>
<td>Pull Federal Compliance Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 2020</td>
<td>Internal readiness audit (incl. review of compiled Assurance Argument)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2020</td>
<td>Committees submit draft sections of Assurance Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2020</td>
<td>Complete Draft Federal Compliance Worksheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2020</td>
<td>Submit Federal Compliance Worksheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>Refresh Evidence File data in Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>Final draft of Assurance Argument to editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2021</td>
<td>Filing: Assurance Argument, Evidence File and Federal Compliance Worksheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2021</td>
<td>Internal Lock Date (changes limited to leadership team)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2021</td>
<td>Finalize Filing - Lock Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>Peer Review Team visit</td>
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Major Components

1.) Quality Initiative
2.) Federal Compliance
3.) Criteria for Accreditation
The Open Pathway requires the institution to undertake a major Quality Initiative designed to suit its present concerns or aspirations.

UA Learning Initiative
As a federally recognized accrediting agency, HLC is required to assure that all of its member institutions are meeting their Title IV program responsibilities as well as complying with the expectations of specific federal regulations.

Compliance with these requirements by both institutions and HLC is necessary to ensure that institutions accredited by HLC are eligible for federal financial aid.
The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which the Commission determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

During the Comprehensive Evaluation, HLC conducts an Assurance Review to determine whether an institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation. The Evaluation will culminate with a peer review team visit on April 26-27, 2021.
Main Deliverables for the Criteria Committees

HLC conducts an Assurance Review to determine whether an institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation.

**Assurance Argument**

Narrative describing how UA meets each of the five Criteria for Accreditation.

**Evidence File**

Data that provides evidence and supports the assurance argument.

[https://assurance.hlcommission.org/demo-k-state/evidence](https://assurance.hlcommission.org/demo-k-state/evidence)

Username: hlc.guest7@gmail.com; Pswd: accreditation
The University of Arizona

HLC 2021 Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The University of Arizona has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1917. HLC is one of six regional accreditation agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The UA’s last comprehensive evaluation for re-accreditation occurred in 2010 and validated the University’s extraordinary quality and integrity of academics, research, administration, faculty, staff, resources, facilities and procedures. Learn more about the history of UA Accreditation here.

The Provost has appointed Dr. Roger Amsfeld, Head & University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Dr. Barbara Mills, Regents’ Professor of Anthropology, to serve as Co-Chairs and Dr. Jane Hunter, Director of Academic Resources and Special Projects, to serve as the Project Manager for the upcoming Reaffirmation of Accreditation. Dr. Gail Burt, who serves as the Executive Director, provides invaluable insights due to her extensive experience as a HLC Peer Reviewer. To ensure a successful review, the UA HLC 2021 Team, which includes the Leadership, Advisory, Criteria and Federal Compliance Committees, has been established.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

To reaffirm accreditation, the University of Arizona is following the Open Pathway, which is one of three options that institutions have for maintaining their accreditation with HLC. The Open Pathway’s 10-year cycle is focused on quality assurance and institutional improvement. In the final year of the cycle, institutions undergo a comprehensive evaluation to ensure they are meeting the Criteria for Accreditation, pursuing institutional improvement and complying with certain requirements set by the U.S. Department of Education.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Our Project</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HLC 2021 Team</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The team is comprised of leaders, advisors and individual contributors who are preparing for the Reaffirmation of Accreditation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **HLC 2021 Project Plan** |
| The Project Plan is a compilation of documents including the project charter, roles and responsibilities, project schedule, and more. |

| **HLC 2021 Dashboard** |
| The HLC 2021 Dashboard provides a snapshot of the current status of efforts to prepare for the 2021 Comprehensive Evaluation. |

| **Student Opinion Survey** |
| UA students can participate in the review process by completing an online survey. Their responses help reviewers identify topics of discussion for the site visit. |

| **HLC 2021 Key Milestones** |
| The Key Milestones reflect the critical timeline to ensure that The University of Arizona is awarded Reaffirmation of Accreditation following the 2021 Comprehensive Evaluation. |

| **Resources for Committee Members** |
| Resources for Committee Members include links to project documents, guidelines for project tasks and access to data repositories. Access to some pages and folders are restricted. |

For more information on the latest HLC 2021 News, visit the [HLC 2021 Team](#). For updates on the Student Opinion Survey, check back in Fall 2019. For the latest Key Milestones, check the [HLC 2021 Key Milestones](#).
### Concerns and Issues

**(Green: On-track and minimal risk; Yellow: Efforts underway and limited risk; Red: Behind schedule and/or significant risk)**

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**Student Complaint System**

Student Complaint System moved from YELLOW to GREEN on 1/24/19. See [HLC 2021 News](https://hlc2021.arizona.edu/hlc-2021-dashboard) for more information.

**Federal Compliance Dry Run**

The UA Federal Compliance Committee is working diligently to complete a dry run upload of the Federal Compliance Filing and Contact Hours Worksheet. The status is RED because the input from the Registrar’s Office/RCS has not been submitted. The Registrar’s Office and Curricular Affairs are collaborating to remove impediments that have prevented completion of this task.

**Student Complaint System**

UA has developed a new system, consistent with HLC requirements, to capture complaints that are not handled through existing policies and procedures. The status is GREEN because the new system has been implemented and a student complaint was submitted and dealt with properly.

**Contact Hours**

UA has courses that do not comply with HLC requirements regarding the assignment and award of credit hours. Curricular Affairs, RCS and UITS has developed a system that audits contact hour compliance in UA Student. The status is YELLOW because the policy and procedures have been implemented and departments and colleges are beginning to address concerns. [Memo](https://hlc2021.arizona.edu/hlc-2021-dashboard).

**Gen Ed Assessment**

In the past, the quality and quantity of assessments of learning outcomes for General Education has been inconsistent. The status is YELLOW since UA has elected to utilize the services of [AAC&U Value Institute](https://hlc2021.arizona.edu/hlc-2021-dashboard) beginning Fall 2019.

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**UA Faculty Credentials**

HLC seeks to ensure that members are experts in the subject matter they teach and who can communicate knowledge in that subject to their students. The status is YELLOW since a policy has been developed but needs to be approved by Faculty Senate. See [HLC Credential FAQs](https://hlc2021.arizona.edu/hlc-2021-dashboard) for more info.

**Syllabus Project**

A process has been established that enables faculty to upload syllabi from D2L, to the cloud which will be made available from the Schedule of Classes. The status is YELLOW since the process has been created but not yet fully implemented (insufficient syllabi have been uploaded).

**Online Teaching**

A plan has been developed to certify all faculty who teach online courses through one of three approaches. The status is YELLOW because the plan has not yet been fully implemented. In addition, a policy for online contact hours must be developed and approved.
Providing Evidence for the Criteria for Accreditation *

Identifying Evidence

HLC encourages institutions to provide thorough evidence and ensure that the sources it selects are relevant and persuasive.

Possible Sources of Evidence

HLC Resource Guide provides examples of the types of information institutions may present in addressing the Criteria for Accreditation.

* Excerpted from the Official HLC Resource Guide, included in folder
Thank you