



# Preparing for K-State's Next Institutional Accreditation by HLC

Nov 2, 2021



## What is HLC accreditation?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation that was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the United States.

K-State has been accredited by HLC since 1916.



## How often does institutional accreditation happen?

- Every 10 years, an institution goes through a comprehensive HLC review process
- There is a fourth-year review by HLC during the 10-year cycle
- K-State is preparing for the 10-year comprehensive review



# What are the purposes of HLC accreditation?

- Serve as a license for operation,
- Confirm the existence and quality of addressing the criteria,
- Identify where improvements could be made,
- Guide enhancement of institutional practices,
- For K-State, serve as a vehicle to strategize pathways to the future



## What do we need to prepare?

1. Submit a comprehensive assurance argument—  
responding to all five criteria
2. Complete a Federal Compliance review
3. Submit HLC Quality Initiative report
4. Host a campus visit by a team of HLC peer reviewers—  
April 11-13, 2022.

# What criteria does HLC use?

[Criterion 1. Mission](#) (3 core components)

[Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct](#) (5 core components)

[Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support](#) (4 core components)

[Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement](#) (3 core components)

[Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning](#) (3 core components)



## Where are we in this process right now?

1. Assurance Argument—70% complete
2. Federal Compliance review—95% complete
3. HLC Quality Initiative report--Completed
4. Campus visit—April 11-13, 2022.

**All paperless!**



When must we complete all preparation work?

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022





# Who are leading the preparation?

- Core team members:
  - Bin Ning, Fred Burrack, Shane Schellpfeffer and Kerri Keller
- Ad hoc resources persons:
  - Administrative unit leaders, faculty Senate, SGA representative...
- Assurance argument readers and reviewers:
  - Readers: Joe Mocnik (Libraries), Michael Young (Faculty), Karen Pedersen (Online Education), Joel Anderson (Research)
  - Reviewers: President's Cabinet members

# Who are contact points at academic units?

Karen Pedersen	Global Campus
Ansley Chua	Business
Sara Rosenkranz	Health & Human Sci
Cindy Shuman	Education
Sarah Reznikoff	Graduate School
Jackie Spears	Olathe Campus
Dan Moser	Agriculture

Kimathi Choma	Arts & Science
Katie Kingery-Page	APDesign
Gary Clark	Engineering
Johann Coetzee	Vet Med
Terri Gaeddert	Salina Campus
Joe Mocnik	Libraries
Mary Tolar	Leadership Studies

## What is my role in this process?

- Help the core team to gather substantiated examples and documents
- Help promote awareness
- Help respond to information requests by the on-site review team
- Prepare to attend certain focus and open forums during the site visit
- For Salina campus, please be prepared for a visit by 1-2 HLC reviewers.



# Communications

- <https://www.k-state.edu/assessment/aboutus/accreditation/>