

HLC ACCREDITATION AT OCC ...

... WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

HLC WEBSITE

A wealth of useful information can be found on the [HLC website \(www.higherlearningcommission.org\)](http://www.higherlearningcommission.org), particularly as it pertains to the next accreditation visit:

- ✓ [The Criteria for Accreditation](#)
- ✓ [Assumed Practices](#)
- ✓ [Glossary of Terms](#)
- ✓ [Federal Compliance Packet](#)



ACCREDITATION EFFORTS IN PROGRESS

The HLC is coming in 2018-19! As in years past, OCC will provide the HLC with a comprehensive report about how we are meeting the Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices. The Open Pathways visit will last approximately 1-1/2 days. Here are other pertinent facts about the HLC visit:

- ✓ The self-study report prepared for the HLC, called the Assurance Argument, is all housed online through the HLC's electronic tool. In addition, all evidence to support our criteria arguments is uploaded to this site.
- ✓ The visit agenda is set by the HLC's team of peer evaluators. Typically, they will ask to meet with the Chancellor, Board of Trustees, CFO, CAO, faculty, students, staff, advisory boards and community members.
- ✓ The HLC now requires a set of information related to federal regulations and compliance be submitted six months prior to our comprehensive evaluation. This [Federal Compliance Program](#) is used by the HLC to ensure that institutions are complying with the expectations of specific regulations as part of their federal recognition.

WHAT DOES 'OPEN PATHWAYS' MEAN?

OCC is now an Open Pathways Institution, which is for non-AQIP schools in good standing. The PEAQ (Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality) designation for colleges no longer exists. For more information, go to the HLC site referencing [Open Pathways](https://hlcommission.org/Pathways/open-overview.html) at: <https://hlcommission.org/Pathways/open-overview.html>.

P&C ACADEMY SERVES AS OCC'S QUALITY INITIATIVE

OCC is also participating in the [Higher Learning Commission's Persistence & Completion \(P&C\) Academy](#), which serves as OCC's Quality Initiative. Each college following the Open Pathways model is required to complete a quality initiative. In 2015, we began a four-year cycle to identify and implement meaningful ways to impact our persistence and completion rates. The 8-member team for the P&C Academy includes: Tim Sherwood (DO) Co-Chair, Mike Vollbach (RO) Co-Chair, Kris Evans (HL), Steve Linden (DO), Kelly Perez-Vergara (AH), Jackie Shadko (DO), Cathey Sorenson (HL), Ed Stotts (AH) and Nancy Showers (DO). The team has divided their work into three main areas of focus: Engagement, Student Services and Academic Sequencing.

OCC DISTANCE EDUCATION APPLICATION UNDERWAY

The Distance Education Request for Change application to offer online programs is well underway; the work continues as does our preparation for the site visit. There have been numerous updates and changes to the Distance Education program including: comprehensive online training for faculty, student online readiness assessment, virtual access to counseling and tutoring, and a wide array of other improvements and student services.

HLC COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

HLC Steering Committee	Provides oversight of HLC processes and preparation for assurance argument and comprehensive visit.		
Tim Sherwood	Academic Affairs (DO) - Steering Co-Chair	Marty Orlowski	Institutional Effectiveness (AH)
Nancy Showers	Academic Affairs (DO) - Steering Co-Chair	Carlespie McKinney	Faculty (SF)
Cynthia Roman	President (HL)	Kelly Perez-Vergara	Institutional Effectiveness (AH)
Shawn Dry	Faculty (AH)	Peter Schade	Faculty (OR)
Tim Taylor	President (AH)	Peter Provenzano	Administrative Services (DO)
John Mitchell	Faculty (OR)	Judy Matteson	Faculty (RO)
HLC Criterion One	Mission		
Cynthia Roman	President (HL) – Criterion 1 Co-Chair	Janet Roberts	External Affairs (DO)
Shawn Dry	Faculty (HL) Criterion 1 Co-Chair	John Sloan	Faculty (SF)
Kathleen Cham	Paraprofessional (AH)	Robert Spann	Campus Affairs (OR)
Lloyd Crews	Faculty (SF)		
HLC Criterion Two	Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct		
Tim Taylor	President (AH) – Criterion 2 Co-Chair	Jeff Farrah	Faculty (AH)
John Mitchell	Faculty (OR) - Criterion 2 Co-Chair	Gina Mandas	Faculty (HL)
Darlene Bignotti-Johnson	Faculty (RO)	Deb Swanson	Administrative Services (AH)
Mary Chambers	Human Resources (DO)	Henry Tanaka	Academic Affairs (OR)
HLC Criterion Three	Teaching & Learning: Quality, Resources & Support		
Marty Orlowski	Institutional Effectiveness (AH) - Criterion 3 Co-Chair	Cynthia Finger-Hoffman	Faculty (OR)
Carlespie McKinney	Faculty (SF) - Criterion 3 Co-Chair	Rachel Lathrop	Institutional Effectiveness (AH)
Janice Brown-Williams	Campus Affairs (SF)	Kayla LeBlanc	Academic Affairs (AH)
Kevin Bratton	Academic Affairs (HL)	Tatiana Reynolds	Faculty (OR)
Cindy Carbone	Academic Affairs (RO)	Mary Ann Sheble	Student Services (AH)
Margaret Carroll	Human Resources (DO)		
HLC Criterion Four	Teaching & Learning: Evaluation & Improvement		
Kelly Perez-Vergara	Institutional Effectiveness (AH) - Criterion 4 Co-Chair	Mary Miles	Faculty (HL)
Peter Schade	Faculty (OR) - Criterion 3 Co-Chair	Lori Przymusinski	Campus Affairs (AH)
Michael Goldin	Academic Affairs (AH)	Brian Shaw	Faculty (OR)
Daniel Lawson	Faculty (HL)		
HLC Criterion Five	Resources, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness		
Peter Provenzano	Administrative Services (DO) - Criterion 5 Co-Chair	Bob Kelly	Administrative Services (DO)
Judy Matteson	Faculty (RO) - Criterion 5 Co-Chair	Renee Oszust	Administrative Services (DO)
Sharon Converse	Administrative Services (DO)	Nancy Showers	Academic Affairs (DO)
Tom Hendricks	Academic Affairs (SF)	Jasen Witt	Human Resources (DO)
HLC Federal Compliance Team	Responsible for compiling evidence that OCC is complying with the expectations of federal specific regulations.		
Tim Sherwood	Academic Affairs (DO) - Fed Compl Co-Chair	Marty Orlowski	Institutional Effectiveness (AH)
Nancy Showers	Academic Affairs (DO) - Fed Compl Co-Chair	Wilma Porter	Student Services (AH)
Laurie Huber	Student Services (DO)	Lori Przymusinski	Campus Affairs (AH)
Kayla LeBlanc	Academic Affairs (AH)	Janet Roberts	External Affairs (DO)
Steve Linden	Student Services (DO)	Robert Spann	Campus Affairs (OR)