

HLC ACCREDITATION AT OCC ...

... WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The College's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation visit is scheduled for **March 18-19, 2019**. There is still much work to be done! For full details about next steps and milestones, see the reverse side of this document for a complete timeline for all HLC-related activities. The major components of our reaffirmation are outlined below.

- ✓ **Assurance Argument** - Criterion Teams have worked diligently to complete bulleted analyses of how we are addressing each of the five criteria. From these documents, Academic Dean and HLC assurance argument writer Cindy Carbone has created an initial draft of our Assurance Argument, which is being shared with various stakeholders for their input and review.
- ✓ **Federal Compliance Review** - OCC is required to assure that we are meeting our Title IV program responsibilities and comply with specific regulations the HLC enforces as part of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education. Included in this review is information about how we address specific requirements, such as how we handle student complaints, publication of transfer policies and verification of student identity.



PERSISTENCE AND COMPLETION ACADEMY REACHES HALFWAY MARK

The Higher Learning Commission requires that each college in the Open Pathways reaffirmation process complete a quality initiative. The Higher Learning Commission's Persistence & Completion (P&C) Academy serves as OCC's Quality Initiative fulfilling this requirement. The nine-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), Jahquan Hawkins (AH), Cathy Sorenson (HL), Ed Stotts (AH) and Nancy Showers (DO). The team's work to improve student retention and completion is divided into three main areas of focus: Engagement, Student Services and Academic Sequencing. Some key accomplishments at the halfway mark of the four-year academy are program plans available online, student engagement best practices showcase, and an early alert pilot. Contact a team member to get involved.

OCC DISTANCE EDUCATION CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM APPROVED

The Distance Education EMP Implementation Team worked diligently to prepare for a successful visit from the HLC to approve one program for distance delivery (Criminal Justice). The College received final notification in May that our request for this substantive change was approved. Some of the highlights of the positive feedback from the review team included:

- ✓ The planning and design process involved a significant degree of involvement from many constituents across campus.
- ✓ The Academic Technologies Group, led by Dean Kayla LeBlanc, was cited for being exceptionally faculty-oriented and having strong expertise in online instruction and professional development.
- ✓ The Online Learning Readiness Course proved to be a good strategy to help students assess their aptitude for online learning.
- ✓ The development and approval process for online courses incorporates strong quality control metrics.

Additional information can be found on the [HLC website \(www.higherlearningcommission.org\)](http://www.higherlearningcommission.org).

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

2017											
Winter 2017				Summer 2017				Fall 2017			
Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Assurance Arguments Written (Version 1)						Individual Mtgs w/Criterion Chairs & Share Draft with Deans		Steering Committee Reviews Version 1	Chancellor's Cabinet Review Version 1	Steering Committee Review Version 1 and edit	
Division Day Update			HLC Annual Conference	Federal Compliance Update			X We Are Here	BOT Overview (TBD)	BOT Workshop (TBD)		
DE Visit Jan 30-31				P&C Midpoint Roundtable				DE submit 2nd program			
2018											
Winter 2018				Summer 2018				Fall 2018			
Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BOT Review and Comment	Faculty/Staff & Senate Comment Version 2		Steering Committee Revise Version 2	Chancellor's Cabinet Approve Final Version	BOT Review Final Version	Steering Committee Revise Final Version		Submit Final Version to HLC	3rd Party Comment		
Division Day Update & Ed Talk			HLC Annual Conference	Federal Compliance Update				Federal Compliance Due			
2019											
Winter 2019				Summer 2019				Fall 2019			
Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Division Day Update		HLC Visit March 18-19	HLC Annual Conference								
LEGEND											
	P & C Academy			Distance Education				Communication			
	HLC Annual Conference			Assurance Arguments				Federal Compliance			