

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION



The five Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. They are as follows:

CRITERION 1.

MISSION

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

How does the institution's work contribute to the mission of helping the student learn?

How does the mission of the institution guide how Purdue University Northwest (PNW) serves the community?

CRITERION 2.

INTEGRITY: ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

How does PNW's actions reflect that this institution is serving the best interest of the students and community?

How does PNW demonstrate that it ensures ethical teaching and learning?

CRITERION 3.

TEACHING AND LEARNING: QUALITY, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT

The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

How does PNW ensure high quality academic programming?

How does PNW incorporate into its programs and courses opportunities for all students to achieve outcomes?

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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.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

How does PNW assess common student learning in all programs and make improvements to increase student learning?

How does PNW ensure program outcomes remain relevant and aligned to student, workplace and social needs?

CRITERION 5.

RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND 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.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

How does the institution allocate its resources to support its mission and priorities?

How does the institution engage administration, faculty, staff, and students in setting academic requirements?

WHAT IS HLC (HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION)?

HLC accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States. *(Source: www.hlcommission.org)*

HLC REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT:

April 12-13, 2021

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE SITE VISIT?

A team of peer reviewers will be on campus for three days. Their role is to ensure PNW is meeting all of the Criteria for Accreditation.

WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

Accredited institutions serve students by ensuring the federal government will allow eligible students to receive financial aid, institutions will accept transfer credits, and employers will recognize that the institution offers quality academic programming.

HOW DO I HELP?

Attend a stakeholder campus meeting during 2020.

WHO ARE THE PEER REVIEWERS:

Peer reviewers are academic professionals, formally trained by HLC, and typically work at institutions similar to PNW.



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