

HLC Steering Committee Newsletter

February 2014

Metropolitan Community College

What is Accreditation and why is it needed?

Metropolitan Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA). The University's last review was during the 2005-06 academic year and scheduled to be reviewed again in November 2015. MCC is part of a new model called Open Pathway that seeks to offer greater value to institutions and greater credibility to the public in its quality assurance.

HLC is responsible for ensuring that colleges and universities meet standards defined by a uniform set of Criteria for Accreditation. Accreditation demonstrates the participating institution's commitment to sustaining a high level of accountability to students and the larger community. Institutional accreditation recognized the overall quality of the organization.

Accreditation allows:

- Institutional eligibility to apply for

federal grants, loans, and other federal funds.

- Students are eligible for federal grants and loans.
- Ensures transferability of course credits.
- Students are eligible to take state licensure examinations.
- Assures colleges and employers that a student's education meet acceptable levels of quality.

2006 Overview and Highlights

The 2006 visit was a success. Some of the concerns from the evaluation team:

- Strategic plan needs to be linked to an operational plan and a clearer connection with the budgeting process.
- Disparities in the ethnic diversity of college personnel.
- Minority vendors be identified and contacted for RFP bids.
- Parlay increase in Latino population

into increased enrollment.

- Communicate general education and student development outcomes to students.
- Use assessment results to improve student learning.
- Take steps to evolve the culture of assessment
- Expand the role of the Foundation to tell the story of MCC to the public.
- Quality and price of food service.

Changes from Last Time

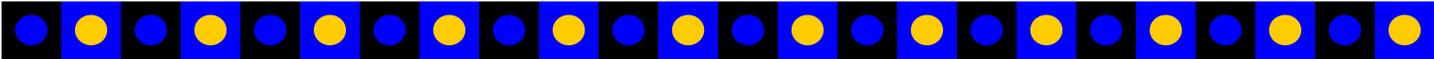
Old	New
Self Study	Assurance Argument
Resource Room	Digital References
Lots of Meetings	Fewer Focused Meetings
Three Day Visit	Two Day Visit
Recommendations Immediately	Recommendations in 2 weeks

Current Process

Criterion Co-chairs have been selected and are working with their committees to gather evidence and begin writing their section of the assurance argument. Campus liaisons have been identified to increase the communication between the steering committee and the campuses. The HLC Steering committee is meeting monthly and is chaired by Paul

Long, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Technology. The committee consists of co-chairs for each of the 5 Assurance Criteria, 2 liaisons from each campus and the AC, HLC Peer Evaluators, and other key resource people from Educational Services, a President, Vice Chancellor, IT, Career and Technical Education and Project Manager.





HLC Quality Initiative

MCC was invited by HLC to be a part of the 2nd cohort of the Open Pathway Accreditation Model. The 2nd cohort consisted of 16 other institutions that were required to create a project that would improve student learning. MCC brought a team of faculty and administrators to training and facilitation at HLC to determine our project. The project had the following goals: 1. Change the Culture of Assessment; 2. Simplify and clarify outcomes; 3. Begin an inclusive, systematic, cyclic and sustainable assessment process; 4. Create opportunities

for assessment efforts to be shared; 5. Support use of assessment reports to drive improvement of student learning. The District Assessment Coordinating Committee lead the efforts to revise MCC's general education outcomes and work with general education faculty to create discipline level outcomes. The DACC created rubrics for assessing the general education outcomes and the faculty created assessments for their disciplines. Each discipline assessed student learning for both general education and discipline outcomes. The disciplines

reviewed the results and made improvements based on the data. The DACC sponsored Summer Symposiums and the Regional CC Assessment conference to share assessment efforts. A brochure and poster was created to communicate outcomes to students. The assessment website was revised to reflect our work. Finally, a survey was developed to measure the culture of assessment at MCC. The pre-survey was administered Fall 2011 and the post was Fall 2013. Results have been analysis and further work will be done at the DACC.

Assurance Criteria

On February 24, 2012, HLC Commission Board of Trustees adopted new Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Obligations of Affiliation. The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which the Commission determines whether an institution merits reaccreditation. The Criteria Booklet can be downloaded at www.ncahlc.org.

The review of the criteria can play a criti-

cal role in stimulating consideration of key issues and informing the MCC community about the strengths and challenges, opportunities for change and possibilities for improvement. The review can help institutions identify ways to more effectively achieve its mission. The goal of the HLC Steering Committee is to conduct a meaningful and transparent evaluation that will help MCC move forward in

a positive direction.



For More Information

Please contact one of your campus liaisons for more information or to share information.

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