

HLC Steering Committee Newsletter

May 2014

Metropolitan Community College

HLC Criterion Co-Chairs

Metropolitan Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA). As we prepare for our reaccreditation visit in November 2015, a steering committee has been established. There are five Criteria for Accreditation that are the standard of quality the Commission determines reaffirmation of accreditation. Co-chairs have been appointed for each criterion.

Criterion One - Mission

Michelle Schmiedeler and Chris Kelly

Criterion Two—Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

Shelli Allen and Jon Burke

Criterion Three—Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

Mickey McCloud and Kimberly Glackin

Criterion Four—Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

Cynthia Sexton Proctor and Casey Reid

Criterion Five—Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Patricia Amick and Karen Moore



Sample HLC Interview Questions for Criterion One

1. It is evident from the college's Assurance Filing that MCC has a clear understanding of its mission, vision, and values. How do you see the mission playing out in your daily lives? What do you see as the strongest evidence that the institution knows and follows its mission?
2. The team found an example of how MCC attends to issues of human diversity. What other examples would you cite that demonstrate MCC's under-

- standing of its relationship between its mission and the diversity of society?
3. Institutions accredited by HLC must demonstrate a commitment to serving the public good. How does MCC best engage its external communities in ways which demonstrate such a commitment?
 4. Ethical and responsible conduct by all members of the higher learning community is expected. What examples can you provide which speak to how such ethics

- are played out at MCC?
5. As MCC moves into the future, what recommendations do you have in relation to its mission, vision, and values and to its demonstration of integrity that you believe would strengthen it?
 6. What types of institutional policies guide expectations of academic honesty and integrity on the part of both faculty and students?

4th Annual Summer Symposium—July 18th, 2014

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Summer Symposium on Friday, July 18th, 2014. It will be held this year at Maple Woods Campus Center Arbor Room. Coffee and conversation will begin at 8 am with the program starting at 8:30 am.

The program will provide an update on the criterion committees and the

work of the HLC Steering Committee. Our HLC Liaison, Barbara Johnson will be the guest speaker. There will be a Flash Five opportunity for disciplines to show off their assessment results and the work the faculty have been doing in the classroom. Please volunteer to present. Initial Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction and Institutional Priority results

will be shared. Finally, the current work of the FOCUS grant will be provided.

Look for more information in the coming months!





HLC On-Site Visit—What to Expect

The on-site visit follows the electronic assurance review in a comprehensive evaluation. All visits include (a) customary meetings and reviews, (b) areas of focus determined by the assurance review, and (c) open forum discussions that engage the institution’s constituents. In addition, the visit may include other evaluations as required or requested, such as multi-campus and embedded change reviews. These additional reviews may be conducted prior to or as part of the on-site visit.

Customary Meetings and Reviews.

Open Pathway visits will include these customary elements:

- Discussions with the Chancellor, typically at the beginning and end of the visit.
- A meeting with members of the Board of Trustees.
- A meeting with those holding primary responsibility for the Evidence File and Assurance Argument.

- A review of Federal requirements needing on-site verification.
- A review of facilities (incidentally in the course of the visit or assigned to a team member).
- An exit meeting, typically with the President, that follows Commission protocol. (The appendices include the exit protocol.)

Areas of Focus. As part of the electronic assurance review, the team will determine areas of focus for more in-depth examination during the visit. The team chair will inform the institution of the areas of focus, request additional documents to be uploaded into the Assurance System, if needed, and identify the individuals and groups for meetings during the visit.

Examples of areas of focus are planning and evaluation, enrollment and finances, student persistence and completion, etc. If applicable, the areas of focus include a review of distance and correspondence education, of extended operations (locations and campuses), and of any institution-requested or Commission-

required evaluations added to the visit.

Open Forum Discussions. These discussions are open to all the institution’s constituents. Facilitated by members of the visiting team, the Open Forums engage faculty, staff, administrators, students, and others in discussions about the institution. These discussions are centered on the five criteria and are intended to assist the team in validating evidence contained in the electronic Assurance Filing or during the team’s interactions with students and others on-site. The discussions help the team members probe the institution’s understanding of itself and the institution’s priorities for the future.

The visit concludes with an exit meeting. An exit session is an opportunity for the peer review team to thank the institution for its efforts and to share with the institution the team’s initial observations about strengths and concerns, as well as information about next steps in the review and decision processes.

For More Information

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

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Criterion Booklet is available at www.nchlc.org

MCC Accreditation blog is available at blogs.mcckc.edu/mcchlc/

