

September 8, 2015

Accreditation Matters:

A guide to UW-Platteville's Reaffirmation of Accreditation



What is the Higher Learning Commission?

The Higher Learning Commission is one of six regional accrediting agencies and it maintains the accreditation relationship for UW-Platteville. This involves a process of self regulation and peer review, ensuring that we provide a high-quality education and continuously seek to improve. This process:

- Assures the public, employers, other educational institutions, and state and federal governments that UW-Platteville meets clearly communicated criteria and regulations
- Ensures that faculty and students are eligible for federal funding, including financial aid and grants for research

Who at UW-Platteville is involved in the process?

Everyone on campus is involved—including you! We need your help over the course of the next year to:

1. Join one of the HLC criteria teams to assist in developing UW-Platteville's Assurance Argument, a summary of how we meet the HLC's extensive criteria, assumed practices, and federal regulations—complete with evidence to support our claims
2. Provide feedback on drafts of the Assurance Argument as we continue to develop it
3. Provide evidence when one of the HLC criteria teams requests information from your office/program/department
4. Prepare to meet with the HLC review team when they come for their campus visit, Oct. 24–25, 2016

UW-Platteville's Mission Statement

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville provides associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree programs in a broad spectrum of disciplines including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; criminal justice; education; business; agriculture; and the liberal arts.

We promote excellence by using a personal, hands-on approach to empower each student to become broader in perspective, intellectually more astute, ethically more responsible, and to contribute wisely as an accomplished professional and knowledgeable citizen in a diverse global community.

*HLC Campus Visit:
Oct. 24–25, 2016*



Reaffirmation of accreditation: where are we now?

The HLC Steering Committee consists of faculty and staff from many administrative, academic, and co-curricular constituencies, and has been meeting on a bi-weekly basis since the fall 2013 semester.

As of September 2015, we have researched, written, and assembled a 100-page draft—with supporting evidence—of our Quality Assurance Argument, addressing each of the five criteria HLC uses to evaluate us:

- I. **Institutional Mission:** The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.
- II. **Integrity:** Ethical and Responsible Conduct: The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.
- III. **Teaching and Learning:** Quality, Resources, and Support: The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.
- IV. **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.
- V. **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.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment

The mission of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment is to collaborate with members of the university community in an ongoing, systematic process of institution-wide evaluation and assessment.

The establishment of the OIEA highlights a significant step by university administration to support and improve ongoing assessment within academic and co-curricular programs. This makes the work that the office does crucial to the preparation of the visit and assessment by HLC.

For more information about the office, visit their website, uwplatt.edu/oiea, or contact Executive Director Nettie Daniels at danielsne@uwplatt.edu.

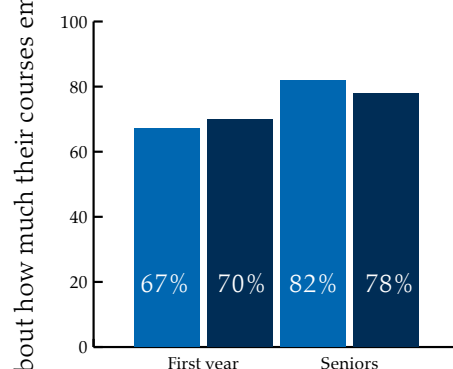
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Please direct your inquiries about this newsletter to Dr. James Romesburg, Assistant Professor of English, at romesburgj@uwplatt.edu.

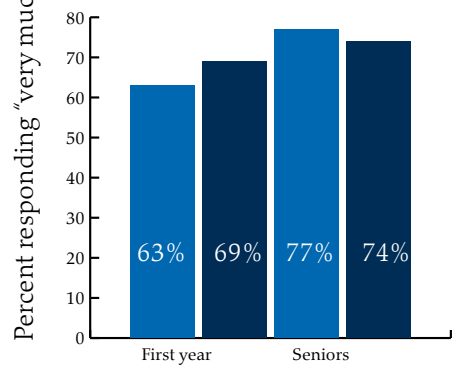
National Survey of Student Engagement Snapshots

As demonstrated in the graphs below, NSSE compares UW-Platteville first-year and senior students with other institutions.* In our comprehensive review, HLC will expect to see evidence of how we use data from instruments like the NSSE to improve student learning experiences in our curricular and co-curricular programs.

Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations



Analyzing an idea, experience or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts



■ UW-Platteville ■ Comparison Group

* The comparison group is selected from competitive master's granting institutions from the Great Lakes region with 5,000–20,000 students.