

Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update

Monday, July 17, 2017

Overall Progress Update

- EMU's scheduled all documents lock-in date:
Friday, **September 15, 2017**
- HLC Site Visit Dates:
Monday-Tuesday, **October 23-24, 2017**
- Overall Progress:
 - Criterion Assurance Argument—85% complete
 - Federal Compliance Review—75% complete
 - Quality Initiative (academic advising)—95% complete
 - Site Visit Logistics—10% complete

Assurance Argument for Five Criteria

- We argue that we have met HLC's five accreditation criteria (21 core components)
- Provide support evidence files
- All electronic-based
- So far, we have compiled 37,500 words of assurance argument (HLC's word count limit: 35,000), and gathered more than 270 evidence files

Criterion One. Mission

- CORE COMPONENT 1.A, The institution's mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.
- CORE COMPONENT 1.B, The mission is articulated publicly.
- CORE COMPONENT 1.C, The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.
- CORE COMPONENT 1.D, The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

EMU's Mission and Vision

EMU's MISSION:

EMU enriches lives in a supportive, intellectually dynamic and diverse community. Our dedicated faculty balance teaching and research to prepare students with relevant skills and real world awareness. We are an institution of opportunity where students learn in and beyond the classroom to benefit the local and global communities.

EMU's VISION:

Eastern Michigan University will be a premier public university recognized for student-centered learning, high quality academic programs and community impact.

Do we live/affirm our mission? And, if so how and where?

Criterion One

Assertions

- In 2011, EMU reconvened the Institutional Strategic Planning Council (IPSC) to update and revise the University's Mission and Vision statement through a broad and inclusive process. **(1.A.1)**
- Our mission document clearly identifies the University's intention to be an “**institution of opportunity**”. EMU was most recently recognized by *GI Jobs* as one of the most military friendly institutions in the nation, one of the most LGBTQ friendly universities in the nation, and most recently launched a “You are Welcome Here Campaign”. **(1.B.3)**



Criterion One

Assertions

- EMU has spent more than \$230 million to fund **improvements in academic and student-centered spaces**. This includes more than \$90 million for the self-funded Science Complex, the largest building project in the University's history, and \$10 million for the Rackham Building, directed at improvements for health-related programs. **(1.D.2)**

Criterion Two. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

- CORE COMPONENT 2.A, The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff.
- CORE COMPONENT 2.B, The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships.
- CORE COMPONENT 2.C, The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity.

Criterion Two. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

- CORE COMPONENT 2.D, The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.
- CORE COMPONENT 2.E, The institution's policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, students and staff.

Criterion Two

Assertions

The accreditation review supports that EMU is significantly strong and successful in acting with integrity: ethically and responsibly in its conduct given the following:

- The transparency of EMU policies, protocols, and operational practices and the many means by which the community can engage with the integrity management of the institution.
- The robust systems of **checks and balances** EMU has in place to review and improve policy and protocol, reliance upon union contracts and agreements, avenues for receiving community feedback, and complaint processes.
- The significant technical and website development and improvements that support provision of information, **opportunities for communication**, consistency of practice, and continuity of services and programs.

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

- CORE COMPONENT 3.A, The institution's degree programs are appropriate to higher education.
- CORE COMPONENT 3.B, The institution demonstrates that the exercise of intellectual inquiry and the acquisition, application, and integration of broad learning and skills are integral to its educational programs.
- CORE COMPONENT 3.C, The institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services.

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

- CORE COMPONENT 3.D, The institution provides support for student learning and effective teaching.
- CORE COMPONENT 3.E, The institution fulfills the claims it makes for an enriched educational environment.

Criterion Three

Assertions

Eastern Michigan University is intentional in providing the resources, support, and processes for ensuring high quality teaching and learning.

- **Rigorous course and program development processes, program review**, strong articulation agreements, and shared governance structures provide appropriate degree programs to support student needs in the southeastern Michigan and the Great Lakes region.
- EMU has a strong tradition of and commitment to **undergraduate research** demonstrated by the oldest undergraduate research symposiums in the country. Student inquiry and intellectual acquisition are furthered by the recent investments into classroom technology and renovations to the Mark Jefferson Building/Science Complex, Pray Harrold, and Rackham Buildings.
- We consistently acquire and evaluate the appropriate number of and **quality of faculty and staff**, as well as provide professional development, to create a rich learning environment for students both within and outside the classroom.

Criterion Four. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

- CORE COMPONENT 4.A, The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs.
- CORE COMPONENT 4.B, The institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning.
- CORE COMPONENT 4.C, The institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs.

Criterion Four

Assertions

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.

- EMU has a robust process for **assessing student learning** from programmatic perspectives and using information gathered to improve programs and opportunities for students to learn.
- The five colleges, the General Education Program, Student Affairs and Student Services (SASS), and the University Library have assessment councils or committees, which are coordinated by the University Assessment Committee, that ensure that programs **use assessment data** to “close the loop” of assessment cycles.
- EMU has defined and ambitious goals for **supporting student persistence toward degree completion**; specific initiatives and practices are decentralized and are becoming more coordinated with the University’s mission and resources.

Criterion Five. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

- CORE COMPONENT 5.A, The institution's resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.
- CORE COMPONENT 5.B, The institution's governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission.
- CORE COMPONENT 5.C, The institution engages in systemic and integrated planning.
- CORE COMPONENT 5.D, The institution works systematically to improve its performance.

Criterion Five

Assertions

- The institution engages in a systematic/integrated resource **allocation process** that prioritizes the educational mission over other areas.
 - Largely incremental with input from the University Budget Council (UBC) and the Executive Council.
 - The budget has focused on: 1) affordability (financial aid); 2) safety (officers/cameras/lighting); 3) student life (advisors); 4) athletics (total University experience); 5) capital (infrastructure) and 6) Academic Affairs (constant faculty staffing).

Criterion Five

Assertions

- The institution employs policies and procedures to engage a knowledgeable governing board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.
 - The Board of Regents meet 5-6 times annual plus workshops and retreats.
 - Constituents take part in various committees (Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs, Ed. Policy, Athletics, Finance).
- The institution works systematically to **improve its performance**.
 - Faculty - Rigorous hiring process, document performance, extensive annual evaluation process.
 - Staff - Annual evaluation process linking goals/objectives to Strategic Plan.
 - Financially - Annually audited with results publicly presented at the fall Board of Regents meeting and on EMU's homepage.

Areas Reviewed by Multiple Criteria

- Mission and Vision
- Strategic planning and investment
- Academic programs and quality
- Student success
- Financial challenges and EMU's responses

How you can help

- Continue to help criterion teams and federal compliance filing
- Inform your faculty and/or staff members about HLC accreditation (www.emich.edu/hlc)
- Help make logistic preparations for HLC's campus visit
- Participate in scheduled meetings and open forums during campus visit