

2013 Accreditation Reaffirmation Update

**The Higher Learning Commission
(HLC)**

**of the North Central Association of
Colleges and Schools (NCA)**

What is HLC?

- Part of NCA
 - 1 of 6 Regional Accrediting Bodies
 - Required for access to federal financial aid
- 1,000+ Institutions
- 19 States
- About 1,500 Peer Reviewer Corps Volunteers
 - Peer Review Corp Advisory Group (8-10 members)
- 47 Staff

Current HLC Processes

- PEAQ:
Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality
- Assurance and Advancement Reviews
- AQIP:
Academic Quality Improvement Program
- Quality Improvement Projects/Checkups
- Other:
Initiation, Candidacy, etc.



Recent University of Akron History with HLC

- 1996 (February) Focus Visit – Governance
- 1996 (April) Second Focus Visit – Governance
- 1997 Comprehensive Visit – 5 Year Reaffirmation
(follow up item – planning and budgeting)
- 2000 Focus Visit – Planning and Budget Allocation
- 2003 Site Visit – 10 Year Reaffirmation
(follow up items – assessment and governance)

Recent University of Akron History with HLC

- 2005 Request for Clarification (Wayne College)
- 2007-2011 Assessment Academy
- 2008 Reports and Visits on Governance and First Additional Location (Medina)
-

Our Self-Study (2011 – 2013)

- Vision 2020
- Undergraduate Student Academic Success
- Graduate Student Academic Success

Steering Committee

- Mike Sherman
- Julie Burdick
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New Criteria (Effective January 2013)

Criterion One: Mission

Criterion Two: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

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

Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning - Evaluation and Improvements

Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

Federal Compliance Requirements/Assumed Practices

Teams

Criterion One: Mission

Team: 5 Faculty, 1 Staff

Lead: Julie Burdick

Criterion Two: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

Team: 4 Faculty, 4 Staff

Lead: Elizabeth Reilly

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

Team: 4 Faculty, 6 Staff

Lead: Stacey Moore

Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning - Evaluation and Improvements

Team: 4 Faculty, 5 Staff

Lead: Linda Subich

Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

Team: 4 Faculty, 3 Staff

Lead: Harvey Sterns

Federal Compliance Requirements/Assumed Practices

Team: 2 Faculty, 3 Staff

Lead: David Cummins and
Nathan Mortimer

Current Timeline

- **Spring 2012**

 - Implement Vision 2020

 - Implement Pathways to Undergraduate Student Academic Success

 - Analyze Graduate Student Academic Success

 - Prepare rough drafts of the self-study report sections

- **Summer 2012**

 - Compile/vet/edit draft self-study report

 - Work with HLC on proposed site-visit team leader and membership

- **Fall 2012**

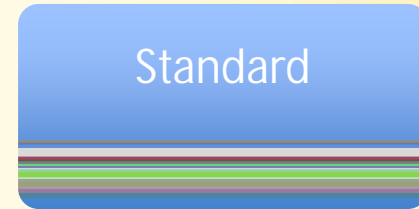
 - Finalize self-study report after broad campus input

 - Prepare campus for site-visit

Current Timeline

- **December 2012**
 - Submit complete self-study to HLC
 - Public announcements and 3rd party comments
- **Spring 2013**
 - Continue preparing campus for site-visit
- **March 3-6, 2013**
 - Site-visit
 - Board of Trustees members needed
- **Summer 2013**
 - HLC decision on reaffirmation and future processes

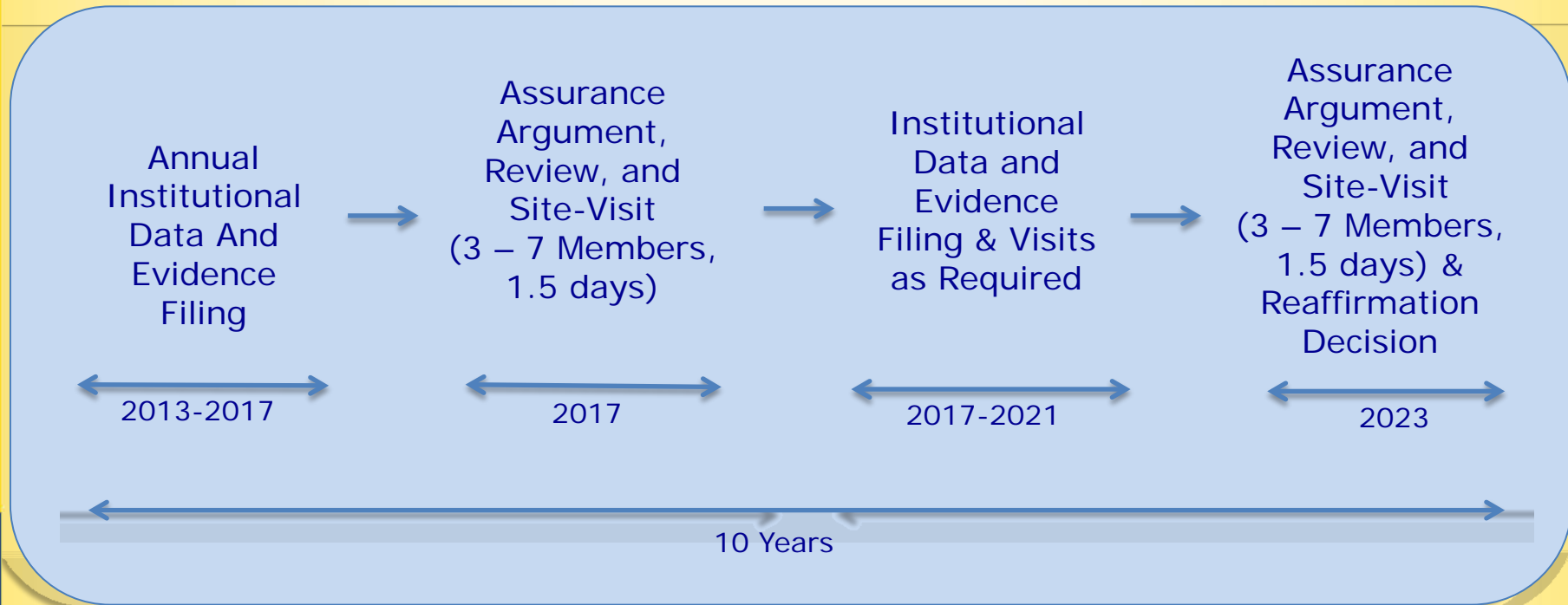
Future HLC Process



Standard Pathway Institutions

- History of HLC follow up items
(e.g. assessment and governance)
- Undergoing dynamic change
(e.g. Vision 2020 and Undergraduate Student Academic Success)
- Frequent substantive change approvals
(e.g. additional locations)

Future HLC Process: The Standard Pathway



Questions?