Organization of Higher Education in Illinois

Executive and Legislative Branches

Office of the Governor	Illinois General Assembly
Website	Website

Statewide Boards and Commissions

Board of Higher Education
Website

Advisory Committees to the Board of Higher Education
- Faculty Advisory Council (FAC)
- Independent College and University Presidents Council
- Proprietary Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Student Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Community Colleges Presidents Council
- Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)	Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy (IMSA)	Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)	Public Universities (12 campuses under 9 separate governing boards)	State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS)	State Universities Retirement System (SURS)
Website	Website	Website	Listing	Website	Website

Independent Institutions (Each with its own governing system)	Private Business and Vocational Schools	Quad Cities Graduate Studies Center	University Center of Lake County
Listing	Directory	Website	Website

East St. Louis College Center	Community Colleges (48 under 39 separate governing boards)
Website	Listing

Community colleges are organized under the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

IBHE and ICCB are governing boards that, advance State policy, approve programs and curriculum, and provide a portion of funding.

Community colleges are directed by the Illinois Public Community College Act – 110 ILCS 805/1-1 to 805/8-2.

CLC VALUES
- Excellence
- Purpose
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Unity
- Inclusion

College Lake County

LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

College Accreditation & Compliance

Open Pathway Overview

The Open Pathway is one of two options institutions have for maintaining their accreditation with HLC. It follows a 10-year cycle and, like the Standard Pathway, is focused on quality assurance and institutional improvement. The Open Pathway is unique in that its improvement component, the Quality Initiative, affords institutions the opportunity to pursue improvement projects that meet their current needs and aspirations.

Higher Learning Commission

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 REVISED CRITERION

Criterion 1: Mission

Criterion 2: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct [Integrity, Transparency, Board Governance]

Criterion 3: Teaching and Learning for Student Success

Criterion 4: Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

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Higher Learning Commission Reaffirmation of Accreditation Preparation

Board of Trustees Meeting
August 26, 2025

Derrick Harden, Ed.D.
Vice President, Strategic Advancement

Kristen Jones, Ed.D.
Vice President, Educational Affairs

Nick Branson, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President, Strategic Advancement (CLC's HLC Accreditation Liaison)

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Higher Learning Commission Overview

10-Year Cycle

Open Pathway	Standard Pathway
Quality Initiative	Mid-cycle Evaluation

Criteria for Accreditation

| 1. Mission	2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success	4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

CLC VALUES
- Excellence
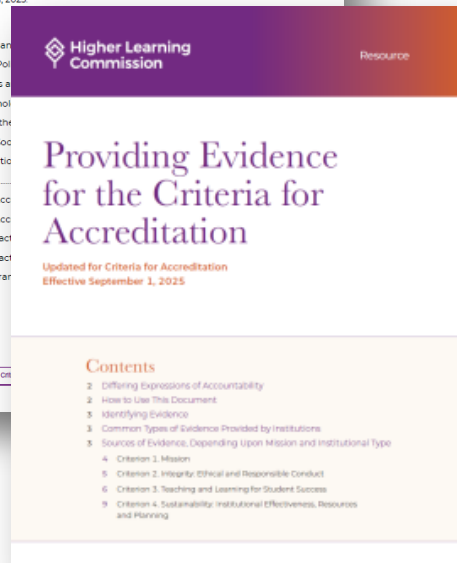- Purpose
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Unity
- Inclusion

College Lake County

Higher Learning Commission
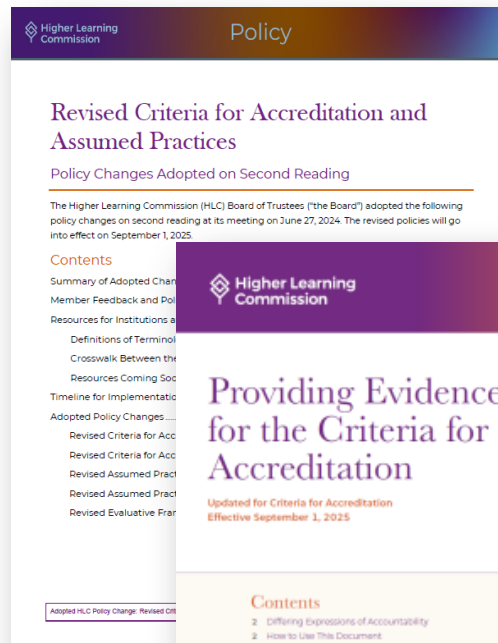
HLC Changes to Criteria

2020 Criteria (ending 8/31/25)

- 5 Criteria
- 18 Core components and 68 sub-components
- Assumed practices
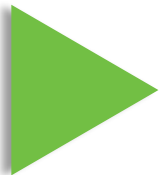
New Criteria (starting 9/1/25)

- Mission-reflective approach
- 4 Criteria (consolidated criteria on teaching and learning)
- 18 Core components (no sub-components)
- Revised assumed practices
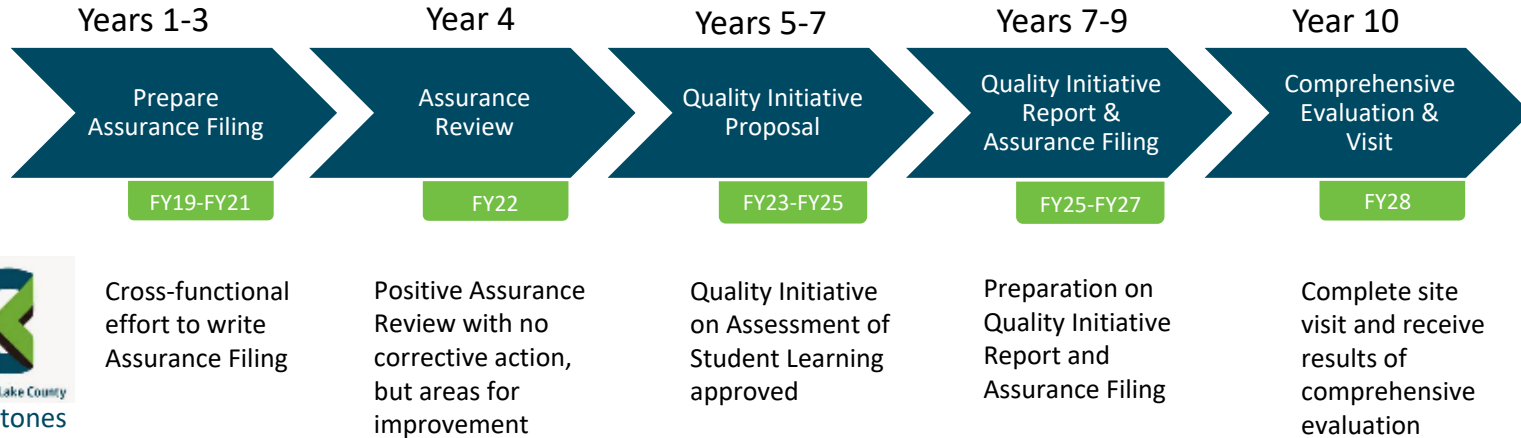- Clarifying language to reduce redundancy

College Lake County

CLC Accreditation Timeline

Years 1-3	Year 4	Years 5-7	Years 7-9	Year 10
Prepare Assurance Filing	Assurance Review	Quality Initiative Proposal	Quality Initiative Report & Assurance Filing	Comprehensive Evaluation & Visit
FY19-FY21	FY22	FY23-FY25	FY25-FY27	FY28

Milestones

Cross-functional effort to write Assurance Filing	Positive Assurance Review with no corrective action, but areas for improvement	Quality Initiative on Assessment of Student Learning approved	Preparation on Quality Initiative Report and Assurance Filing	Complete site visit and receive results of comprehensive evaluation

College of Lake County

LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

HLC Criterion 3: Teaching and Learning for Student Success

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. The rigor and quality of each educational program is consistent regardless of modality, location or other differentiating factors.

3.A. Educational Programs	3.E. Assessment of Student Learning
3.B. Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry	3.F. Program Review
3.C. Sufficiency of Faculty and Staff	3.G. Student Success Outcomes
3.D. Support for Student Learning and Resources for Teaching	Higher Learning Commission

HLC Criteria on Assessment of Student Learning

Criteria 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success

- 3E. Assessment of Student Learning
  - The institution improves the quality of educational programs based on its assessment of student learning.
- 3F. Program Review
  - The institution improves its curriculum based on periodic program review.
- 3G. Student Success Outcomes
  - The institution's student success outcomes demonstrate continuous improvement, taking into account the student populations it serves and benchmarks that reference peer institutions.

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Levels and Cycle of Assessment

Course
Specific learning outcomes measured by class activities

Department or Program
General learning outcomes shared by all courses in a department or program.

Institution
Broad learning outcomes-
Communication
Critical Thinking

Collect Student Data

Analyze Student Data

Plan Interventions and Extensions for Learning

Implement Plan of Action

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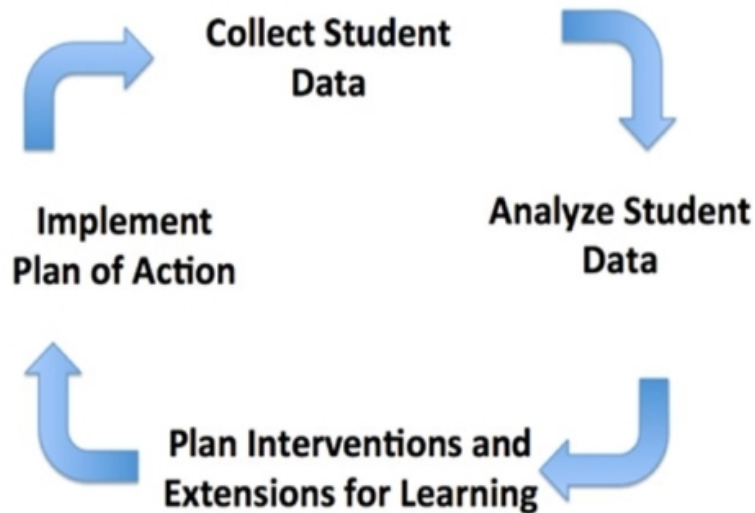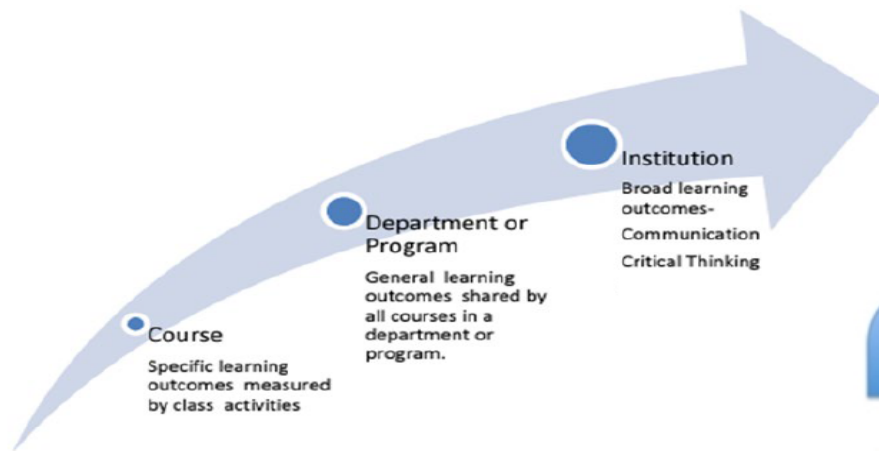
HLC Assessment Academy

- Team of faculty and administrators
- Four-year experience
  - August 2022 - October 2026
- HLC assigned scholar and mentor coaches

Goals for Participation:

- Foster collaborative culture of assessment across institution

- Diversify curricular and co-curricular assessment strategies

- Develop refined, impactful, actionable college learning outcomes (CLOs)

- Integrate CLO mapping into curriculum mapping process

- Increase co-curricular assessment participation while improving student engagement.

TIMELINE SNAPSHOT

Orientation	Context	Roundtable	Project Update 1: Planning	First Year Mentor Check-In	Project Update 2: Development	Project Update 3: Implementation
August 1, 2022	August - September 2022	October 26-28, 2022	October - December 2022	April 2023	August - September 2023	February - March 2024

Midpoint Report	Midpoint Roundtable	Third Year Consultation	Project Update 6: Evaluation	Project Update 7: Expansion	Impact Report	Results Forum
October - December 2024	October 2024	Spring 2025	August - September 2025	February - March 2026	October - December 2026	October 2026

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HLC Criteria on Governance and Board Role

Assumed Practices
- A. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

Criteria 1. Mission
- 1A. Mission Alignment
- 1B. Mission and Public Good

Criteria 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- 2A. Integrity
- 2C. Board Governance

Criteria 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning
- 4A. Effective Administrative Structures
- 4B. Resource Base and Sustainability
- 4C. Planning for Quality Improvement

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HLC Criteria on Governance and Board Role

Standards

Evidence

Verification

Assumed Practices, Criteria, and Core Components

Policy Manual, Board Meeting Recordings and Minutes

HLC reviewers visit CLC and meet with stakeholders

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Questions
What clarification is needed at this time?

Guidance
1. What support does the Board need to prepare for the HLC site visit?
2. Is there additional information the Board would like to receive at this time?

Discussion