

Sustaining the Quality of Higher Education Accreditation, Accreditation, Teaching and Learning

PATHWAYS

The Commission's New
Accrediting Model



Standard Pathway



Standard Pathway

- Ten-year accrediting cycle
- Required for all institutions in first ten-year period of accreditation
- Open to all institutions
- Serves as Pathway for institutions not eligible for Open or AQIP Pathways
- Uses Assurance System (technology)

Assurance System

- Evidence File (uploaded materials)
- Assurance Argument (the narrative)
- Additional Materials (depending on process)
- Peer Review Process

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Assurance System

- Web-based system
- Secure access for institutional representatives (3 “official” plus 12 more), peer reviewers, HLC staff
- Maintained over entire timeline of HLC affiliation
- HLC’s Assurance System is “all that is required” unless institution chooses other systems to help it organize materials, manage a process, etc.

5

Assurance System

Evidence File
Accumulate & Update Evidence

1. Institution uploads documents; tags to Criteria, Core Components, Subcomponents, Federal Compliance requirements.
2. All evidence must be tagged or it is dropped from system; evidence accumulated over time.

Assurance System

Evidence File
Accumulate & Update Evidence

3. links (audits, handbooks, rosters, budgets, etc.).
4. An area to upload new documents during the evaluation if requested or needed.

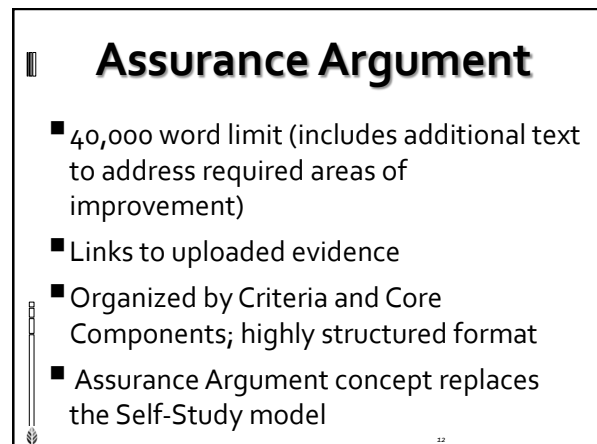
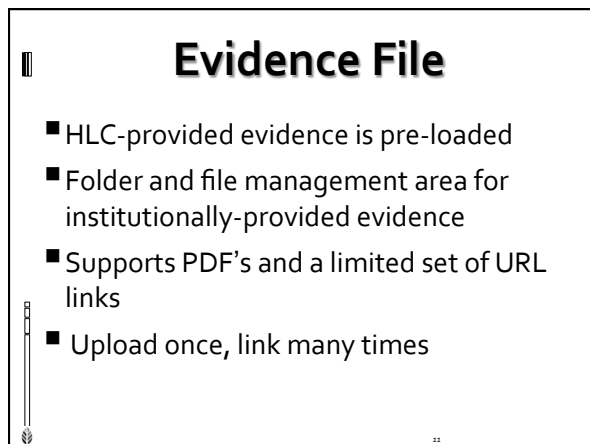
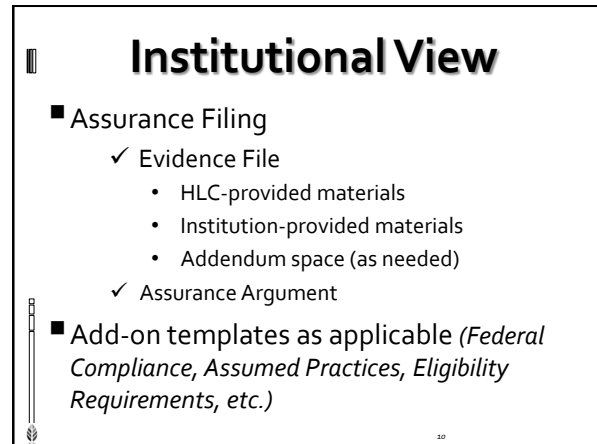
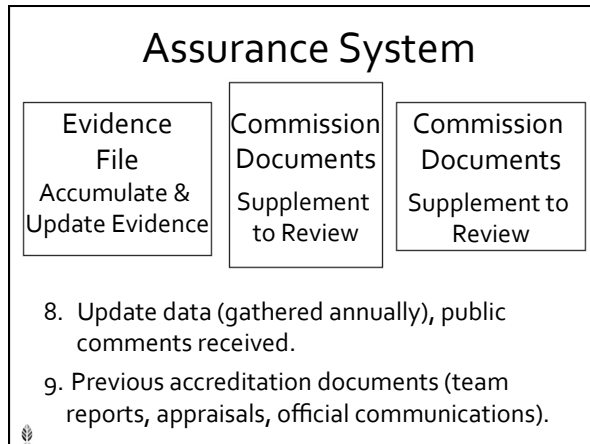
Assurance System

Evidence File
Accumulate & Update Evidence

Assurance Argument
Write or Update

5. Provides brief but thorough analysis of evidence and addresses required improvement areas.
6. Makes case institution meets Criteria & complies with federal requirements.
7. Links to selected materials in Evidence File.

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Assurance Argument

- For each criterion, institution offers:
 - Criterion introduction
 - An articulation of **how each Core** Component within each Criterion is met: *(how and why met, improvement, constraints, threats to maintain, opportunities, future plans)*
 - Explicit statement as to how the institution has responded to any concerns cited in a previous Commission review regarding a Core Component

Assurance Argument

- For each criterion, institution offers:
 - A statement addressing gaps in achievement and future plans with regard to the Criterion
 - Links to materials in the Evidence File
 - A Criterion Summary

Consider the alignment...

Revised Criteria

- ✓ Clearer, more explicit language
- ✓ Core components have individual, separate ideas
- ✓ Inclusive of all requirements (concepts in position statements, policies integrated)

Test the Assurance System Drop-in Sessions

Creating Samples of Assurance Materials: The Evidence File and Assurance Argument

10-25-10

Overview

The Higher Learning Commission has been working with four institutions to create "samples" of the materials expected from institutions in the Open Pathway's Assurance Process. This work includes both the Evidence File materials and the Assurance Argument. The four institutions began in August 2010 and will continue through the 2010-2011 academic year. The benefits and results of this work include:

- Freeing-up Pioneer institutions to focus exclusively on their Improvement Projects while other institutions help design a framework for the Assurance Process
- Uncovering Assurance Process expectations that the Commission should better define
- Providing advice regarding the technology environment that will "hold" the Assurance materials and provide a space for various accreditation activities
- Producing examples that will help other institutions (including the Pioneers) understand the Commission's expectations for evidentiary materials and Assurance Arguments
- Producing examples that will be used in peer review training

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Standard Pathway (p. 11)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Institutional Activities	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements		
Peer Review	Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)	Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)		
Commission Decision Making	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation ¹	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and on Reaffirmation ¹		

1. Assurance & improvement integrated into Assurance Filing (Argument & Evidence File).
2. Improvement expectations related directly to assurance elements; i.e., the Criteria.

Standard Pathway

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
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Commission Decision Making	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation ¹	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and on Reaffirmation ¹		

3. Institution uploads and links information to Criteria and Core Components (Evidence File).
4. Assurance Argument expanded to address required improvements.

Standard Pathway

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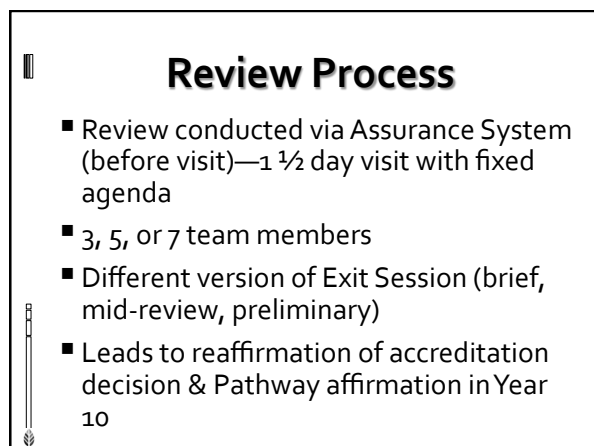
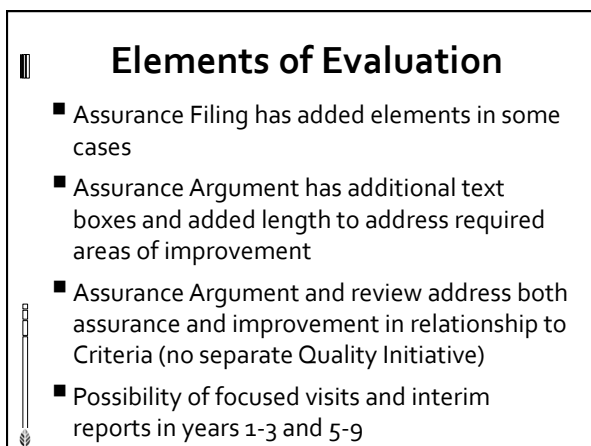
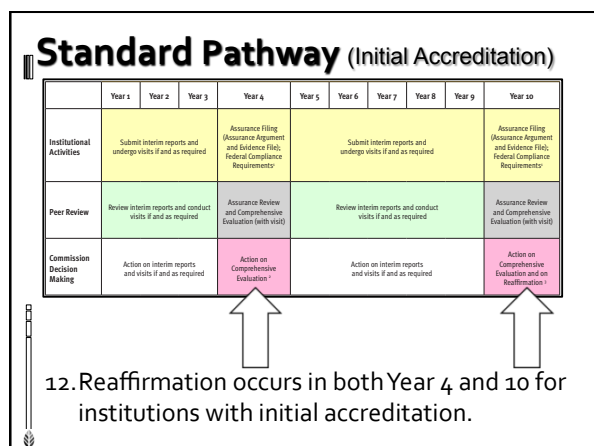
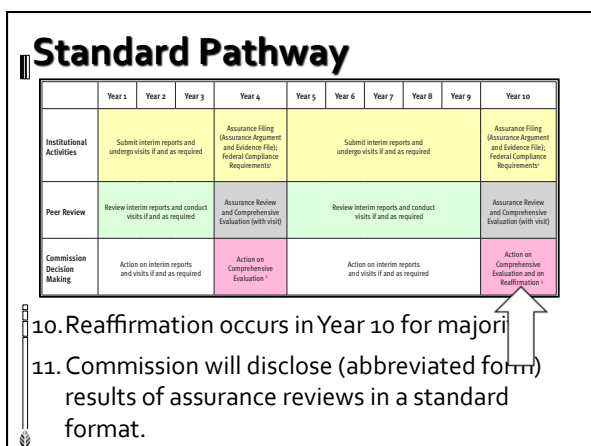
5. Assurance Filing, Federal Compliance, other required materials submitted Years 4 & 10.
6. Comprehensive evaluations with visit in Years 4 & 10.

Standard Pathway

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7. Visit requires 3, 5, or 7 reviewers (additional as needed) for 1 ½ day visit (can be extended).
8. Reviewers submit report.
9. Reports, focused visits possible Years 1-3 & 5-9.

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Sample Agenda for Team Visit

Sample Agenda for the Team Visit	
Day 1: Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with the Institution's senior leadership Meet with individuals involved in the Assurance Argument and Evidence File Meet with representatives of the institution's board Meet individually with the institution's chief officers
Day 1: Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct campus tour Meet with formal committees typically led by faculty (general education, curriculum, assessment, etc.) Meet with leadership representatives from academic and student affairs units, as needed Conduct open forum for faculty and staff Meet with additional individuals and groups (as determined by electronic review of Evidence File and Assurance Argument)
Day 2: Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with student senate (or key student groups as applicable) Meet with groups and individuals from Day 1 if meetings not yet held Hold Exit Session with institution's senior leadership (visit concludes and team departs campus)
Post-Visit	
Day 2: Afternoon and Day 3: Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team deliberations and work at off-campus location

Limited to Standard Pathway

- Accredited for fewer than 10 years by HLC
- Has undergone Change of Control in last two years
- Has been under sanction or related action within last five years
- Has a history of extensive monitoring
- Has present circumstances or developments that raise significant HLC concerns

Limited to Standard Pathway

- Has been undergoing rapid change, plans to, or is marked by frequent change approvals since last reaffirmation
- Failed to make a serious effort in conducting its Quality Initiative in the Open Pathway
- ALL institutions are eligible and may choose the Standard Pathway.

Standard Pathway Transition (p. 12)

Next PEAQ Reaffirmation Visit Scheduled	PEAQ Visit Actually Takes Place	Year the Institution Transitions to the Standard Pathway	Place on Standard Pathway Cycle at Transition	Refer to Transition Map
2011-12**	2011-12	2012-13	Year 1	Map K
2012-13**	2012-13	2013-14	Year 1	Map L
2013-14**	2013-14	2014-15	Year 1	Map M
2014-15**	2014-15	2015-16	Year 1	Map N
2015-16	n/a	2012-13	Year 7	Map O
2016-17	n/a	2012-13	Year 6	Map P
2017-18	n/a	2012-13	Year 5	Map Q
2018-19***	n/a	2012-13	Year 4	Map R
2019-20***	n/a	2012-13	Year 3	Map S
2020-21***	n/a	2012-13	Year 2	Map T

See individual maps by reaffirmation year.
Applies only to Standard Pathway

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Standard Pathway Transition: 2012-13											
Transition Map L: For institutions with the next PEAQ reaffirmation visit in 2012-13											
Pathway eligibility will be determined at the conclusion of the PEAQ review in 2012-13. The chart applies to those institutions that will follow the Standard Pathway either by placement or by choice.											
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
PEAQ Visit	PEAQ Visit										
Pathway Cycle	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Institutional Activities	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements			Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements	
Peer Review	Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)			Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)	
Commission Decision-Making	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation			Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation	
New Criteria ¹	Effective 1/1/12										
Other Monitoring	The Commission will continue to review data submitted by affiliated institutions through the Institutional Update, will apply change processes as appropriate to planned institutional developments, and will monitor institutions through reports, visits, and other means as it deems appropriate.										

(p. 14, applies only to Standard Pathway)

Standard Pathway Transition: 2015-16											
Transition Map O: For institutions with the next PEAQ reaffirmation visit in 2015-16											
Pathway eligibility will be determined at the conclusion of the PEAQ review in 2015-16. The chart applies to those institutions that will follow the Standard Pathway either by placement or by choice.											
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
PEAQ Visit	PEAQ Visit										
Pathway Cycle	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		Year 10	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Institutional Activities	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements			Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements	
Peer Review	Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)			Review interim reports and conduct visits if and as required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)	
Commission Decision-Making	Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation			Action on interim reports and visits if and as required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation	
New Criteria ¹	Effective 1/1/12										
Other Monitoring	The Commission will continue to review data submitted by affiliated institutions through the Institutional Update, will apply change processes as appropriate to planned institutional developments, and will monitor institutions through reports, visits, and other means as it deems appropriate.										

(p. 17, applies only to Standard Pathway)

Standard Pathway Transition: 2016-17											
Transition Map P: For institutions with the next PEAQ reaffirmation visit in 2016-17											
Pathway eligibility will be determined at the conclusion of the PEAQ review in 2016-17. The chart applies to those institutions that will follow the Standard Pathway either by placement or by choice.											
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
PEAQ Visit	PEAQ Visit										
Pathway Cycle	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		Year 10	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Institutional Activities	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements			Submit interim reports and undergo visits if and as required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File), Federal Compliance Requirements	
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New Criteria ¹	Effective 1/1/12										
Other Monitoring	The Commission will continue to review data submitted by affiliated institutions through the Institutional Update, will apply change processes as appropriate to planned institutional developments, and will monitor institutions through reports, visits, and other means as it deems appropriate.										

(p. 18, applies only to Standard Pathway)

Modification to the cycle

- All institutions have at least two years to prepare for a comprehensive evaluation
- Modified schedule in place only during transition years
- Review at Year 6 (instead of Year 4) when reaffirmation in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21

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What can you do now?

- Think Assurance Argument and Evidence File and begin building
- Figure out where you are on timeline and transition calendar
- Take stock of improvement initiatives already in play
- Complete currently required monitoring (reports or visits)