Accreditation Matters: A guide to UW-Platteville’s Reaffirmation of Accreditation

It’s a Great Semester to Be a Pioneer!

What’s this about and why are we doing it?

UW-Platteville partners with the Higher Learning Commission in our reaffirmation of accreditation, a voluntary process of institutional self-reflection and external review. It’s how we make sure—and how we assure our constituencies—that we’re working to achieve our mission, meeting student needs, and maintaining our eligibility for student financial aid and federal grant funding. Accreditation is how we maintain the public trust, and all accredited colleges and universities across the country regularly cycle through a similar reaffirmation process.

What’s happening this semester?

On Oct. 24–25, 2016, UW-Platteville will host a team of five HLC peer reviewers—faculty and administrators from universities like ours—who will meet with students, faculty, and staff to discuss what it’s like to work and attend school here.

How did we get here?

The UW-Platteville HLC Steering Committee has been meeting regularly since the spring of 2012 preparing the 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation argument that will allow the HLC to assure the public of our commitment to a quality university education. The argument is in the final stages of revision. You can view the latest revisions of the argument on the HLC Steering Committee website at this address: www.uwplatt.edu/hlc/quality-assurance-argument-draft. The final version of the argument will be available after Sept. 26.


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.
What do I do during the HLC team visit?

Go about your regular work and school responsibilities. Please be aware that our peer reviewers want to communicate with the campus community as a whole, and you are all members of that community. Be honest about your experience at UW-Platteville. Be polite and helpful—as you always are!—when you meet someone new on campus and/or if you get emails or phone calls asking to arrange a meeting. Meet with them and answer their questions to the best of your knowledge.

What happens after the HLC visit?

The team of reviewers will report back to the campus in a few months to let us know how well they think UW-Platteville has been meeting its obligations to all of our constituencies, including students, employees, and the public at large.

What can you do to prepare for the HLC visit?

1. Respond promptly to document requests from the UW-Platteville HLC Steering Committee.
2. Regularly attend your own program and departmental meetings. Directors and chairs will have more detailed information about your roles in the reaffirmation process and how those roles fit into the larger UW-Platteville mission.
3. Attend the upcoming open forums on campus to learn more about the upcoming visit:
   - Friday, Sept. 16 • Noon–1 p.m. • Platteville East, Markee Pioneer Student Center
   - Thursday, Oct. 6 • 11 a.m.–Noon • Platteville East, Markee Pioneer Student Center
   - Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 3–4 p.m. • Platteville East, Markee Pioneer Student Center
4. Consider your experiences at UW-Platteville. Be honest, and be prepared to discuss those experiences with a member of the re-accreditation peer review team during their on-site visit.
6. Consider and discuss responses to the list of possible questions HLC reviewers might ask on their visit, including:
   - How does the UW-Platteville mission relate to the work you do on a daily basis on campus?
   - There has been a great deal of press regarding budgetary issues in Wisconsin Higher Education. How have the budget cuts affected the ability of UW-Platteville to carry out its mission?
   - What would the typical student say if we asked them what the mission of UW-Platteville is?

Visit [www.uwplatt.edu/hlc](http://www.uwplatt.edu/hlc) for a list of more possible questions and more information about how to prepare for the visit.

---

**The Five HLC Criteria:**

I. Institutional Mission

II. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

III. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

IV. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

V. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness