Slide 1

Higher Learning Commission

HLC's Revised Criteria

and Additional Policy Considerations

Karen J Solomon, Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer | CATYC Annual Conference | September 24, 2024

1

Slide 2

Crosswalk Between the Current and Revised Criteria

2020 Criteria	Location in Revised Criteria & Assumed Practices	2020 Criteria	Location in Revised Criteria & Assumed Practices
Criterion 1. Mission	Criterion 1. Mission	3.C	3.C Sufficiency of Faculty and Staff & Assumed Practice B.4[2]
1.A	1.A Mission Alignment		
1.B	1.B Mission and Public Good	3.D	3.D Support for Student Learning and Resources for Teaching[1]
1.C	1.C Mission and Diversity of Society		
Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct	Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct	Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement	Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success
2.A	2.A Integrity	4.A	3.F Program Review & Assumed Practice C.2[4]
2.B	2.B Transparency	4.B	3.E Assessment of Student Learning
2.C	2.C Board Governance & Assumed Practices A.11–12[3]	4.C	3.G Student Success Outcomes
2.D	2.D Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression	Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning	Criterion 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning
2.E	2.E Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery and Application	5.A	4.A Effective Administrative Structures
Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support	Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success	5.B	4.B Resource Base and Sustainability & Assumed Practice D.2[5]
3.A	3.A Educational Programs	5.C	4.C Planning for Quality Improvement
3.B	3.B Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry		

Higher Learning Commission

2

Slide 3

Crosswalk Between the Current and Revised Criteria

- Several subcomponents were relocated to Assumed Practices.
- One subcomponent was integrated into a revised Core Component.
- Some concepts from other subcomponents will be relocated to an expanded and updated version of the *"Providing Evidence"* document.

https://download.hlcommission.org/policy/updates/AdoptedPolicy-Criteria_2024-06_POL.pdf

Higher Learning Commission

3

Slide 4

Timeline for Implementation

Summer 2024	• Criteria and related policy revisions adopted • Crosswalk between revised and current Criteria published • New and revised definitions for Criteria terminology published
Fall 2024	• Updated *Providing Evidence for the Criteria for Accreditation* published • Webinar series offered on revised Criteria • Additional information provided about Assurance Filings moving to Canopy and sunsetting of current Assurance System • Information provided to institutions with monitoring due after September 1, 2025, about how to address the revised Criteria
Spring 2025	• Access granted to Assurance Filings in Canopy for institutions with evaluations in AY 2025–26 and 2026–27 • Webinar series on revised Criteria continues • Orientation program for new ALOs will address the revised Criteria • Training for new peer reviewers will address the revised Criteria • Sessions offered on the revised Criteria at HLC's 2025 Annual Conference
September 1, 2025	• Revised Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices and Evaluative Framework for the HLC Criteria go into effect for all evaluations that take place on or after September 1, 2025

Higher Learning Commission

4

Criterion 1. Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

1.A. Mission Alignment
1.B. Mission and Public Good
1.C. Mission and Diversity of Society

Higher Learning Commission

5

Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

2.A. Integrity
2.B. Transparency
2.C. Board Governance
2.D. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression
2.E. Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery and Application

Higher Learning Commission

6

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.

Higher Learning Commission

7

Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success

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

Higher Learning Commission

8

Criterion 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures and planning enable it to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational programs, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.
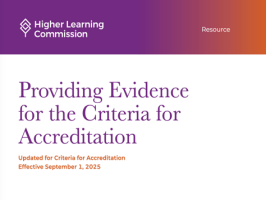
4.A. Effective Administrative Structures

4.B. Resource Base and Sustainability

4.C. Planning for Quality Improvement

Higher Learning Commission

9

Updated Resource

- Document to be utilized as a resource to consider possible sources of evidence
- Document is not exhaustive or to be used as a checklist
- Common Types of Evidence

Higher Learning Commission

Resource

Providing Evidence for the Criteria for Accreditation

Updated for Criteria for Accreditation
Effective September 1, 2025

https://download.hlcommission.org/Providing Evidence-2025Criteria_INF.pdf

10

Access to new Assurance System in Canopy

- Evaluations that take place prior to September 1, 2025: These will be completed in the current system.

- Evaluations scheduled for academic year (AY) 2025–26: Institutions will gain access to the Assurance Filing section of Canopy in early 2025. In August 2024, HLC will reach out to CEOs, Accreditation Liaison Officers and Primary Assurance System Coordinators at these institutions with additional details and guidance about the transition to Canopy.

- Evaluations scheduled for AY 2026–27: Institutions will gain access to the Assurance Filing section of Canopy in early 2025. HLC will reach out to these institutions in fall 2024 to schedule their comprehensive evaluation visit or Assurance Review dates. At that time, HLC will provide additional information about the transition to Canopy.

- Evaluations scheduled for AY 2027–28 or later: In fall 2024, HLC will provide these institutions with additional information about the transition to Canopy.

Higher Learning Commission

11

Other topics to explore....

Karen J Solomon

ksolomon@hlcommission.org

Higher Learning Commission

12