Wright State will be reviewed under the High Learning Commissions Open Pathway reaccreditation process. Wright State’s previous review in 2006 was completed under the Program to Evaluate and Assure Quality (PEAQ) methodology. The Open Pathway consists of two Assurance Reviews that take place in the fourth and tenth year of the 10 year accreditation cycle. A key component of the Open Pathway cycle is the Quality Initiative.

The Quality Initiative: Institutional Improvement in the Open Pathway

The Open Pathway requires the institution to undertake a major Quality Initiative designed to suit its present concerns or aspirations. The Quality Initiative takes place between years 5 and 9 of the 10-year Open Pathway Cycle. A Quality Initiative may be designed to begin and be completed during this time or it may continue an initiative already in progress or achieve a key milestone in the work of a longer initiative. The Quality Initiative is intended to allow institutions to take risks, aim high, and if so be it, learn from only partial success or even failure.

The Quality Initiative can take one of three forms:

1. The institution designs and proposes its own Quality Initiative to suit its present concerns or aspirations
2. The institution choose an initiative from a menu of topics, such as the following examples:
   - The institution undertakes a broad based self-evaluation and reflection leading to revision or restatement of its mission, vision, and goals;
   - The institution joins with a group of peer institutions, which it identifies, to develop a benchmarking process for broad institutional self-evaluation;
   - The institution undertakes a multi-year process to create systemic, comprehensive assessment and improvement of student learning;
   - A four-year institution joins with community colleges to create a program of dual admission, joint recruitment and coordinated curriculum and student support;
   - The institution pursues a strategic initiative to improve its financial position;
   - The institution engages in a Commission-endorsed program or process offered by another agency, such as the Foundations of Excellence program offered by the Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education or the LEAP Initiative offered by the Association of American Colleges and Universities;
3. The institution chooses to participate in a Commission-facilitated program. Currently, the Commission has two such programs, the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning and Academy for Student Persistence and Completion.

In 2012, we chose the third option for Wright State’s Quality Initiative. Wright State sent a team of faculty to the Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning in April 2012. The project developed by the team was enhancing
Wright State’s assessment of learning objectives of the Wright State Core. The implementation has been led by the Assurance of Learning Committee chaired initially by Dr. Joe Law and now by Dr. Renee Aitken. A report describing the results of the Quality Assurance is the first step in reaffirmation of accreditation process. Our final report is due to the Higher Learning Commission by August 31. We will conclude our Academy in October 2015. The Quality Initiative report will be posted on our Accreditation website upon its submittal.

Information on the reaffirmation of accreditation process including Wright State’s history of accreditation is available at http://www.wright.edu/academic-affairs/accreditation.

Information on the Open Pathway process is from the Higher Learning Commission.