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Newsletter #3

Wright State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As part of maintaining accreditation, Wright State’s programs and processes are periodically reviewed to ensure institutional quality and integrity. Wright State will be undergoing the 10 year Reaffirmation of Accreditation in the 2015-2016 academic year. These monthly newsletters are part of our campus preparation for the upcoming re-accreditation visit by informing the campus community of the goals and process of accreditation. The next five newsletters will present the five criteria for accreditation.

An integral part of the reaccreditation process the submission of an Assurance Argument and an Evidence File that demonstrates Wright State satisfies the Higher Learning Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation. Each criterion is defined by a set of core components and associated subcomponents. The Assurance Argument must demonstrate that each core component and subcomponent is satisfied by University policies and practices.

The first criterion focuses on the mission of the institution. The accreditation process reviews an institution with respect to its own mission. Consequently the university must explicitly articulate its mission which represents a shared vision of the constituencies and provide the foundation for decision making and strategic planning. The mission and vision of Wright State University can be found at Wright State Mission Statement.

**Criterion One. Mission**

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

**Core Components**

1.A. The institution’s mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.

   1. The mission statement is developed through a process suited to the nature and culture of the institution and is adopted by the governing board.

   2. The institution’s academic programs, student support services, and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.

   3. The institution’s planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the mission.

1.B. The mission is articulated publicly.

   1. The institution clearly articulates its mission through one or more public documents, such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plans, or institutional priorities.

   2. The mission document or documents are current and explain the extent of the institution’s emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development, and religious or cultural purpose.

   3. The mission document or documents identify the nature, scope, and intended constituents of the higher education programs and services the institution provides.

1.C. The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.
1. The institution addresses its role in a multicultural society.

2. The institution’s processes and activities reflect attention to human diversity as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

1.D. The institution’s mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1. Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation.

2. The institution’s educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.

3. The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

From: Higher Learning Commission Criteria for Accreditation

The Higher Learning Commission