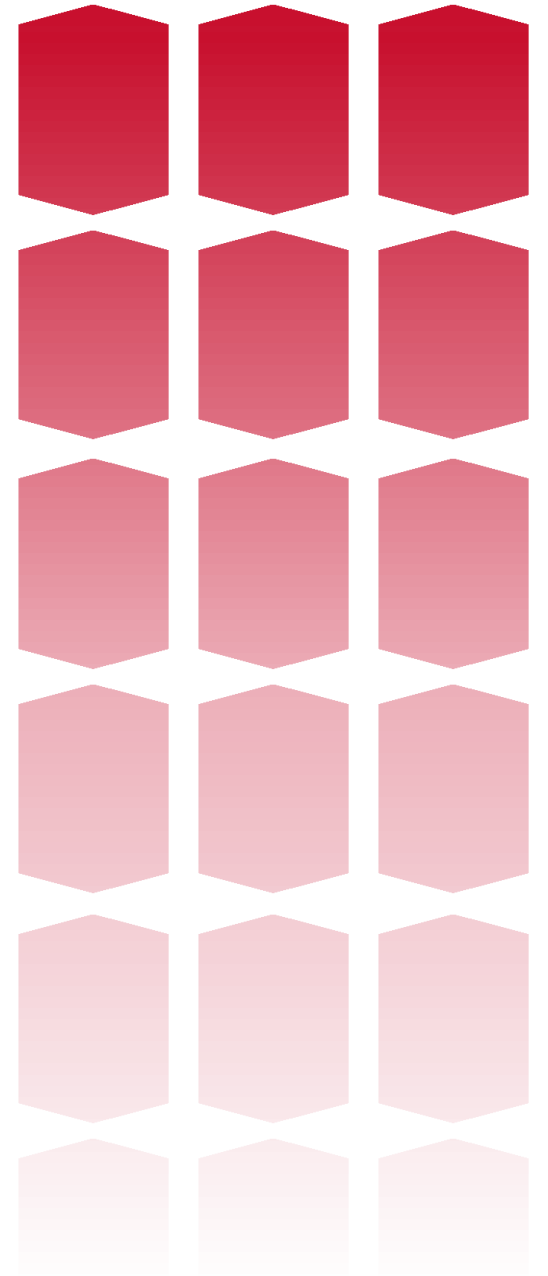# Northern Illinois University

UPDATE

2023-2024
Higher Learning Commission
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Sept. 19, 2023

HLC Accreditation

- NIU has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1915.

- HLC is one of the seven regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

- NIU's last comprehensive evaluation occurred in 2014 and the university was reaccredited by HLC for 10 years (until 2024), the maximum period possible.
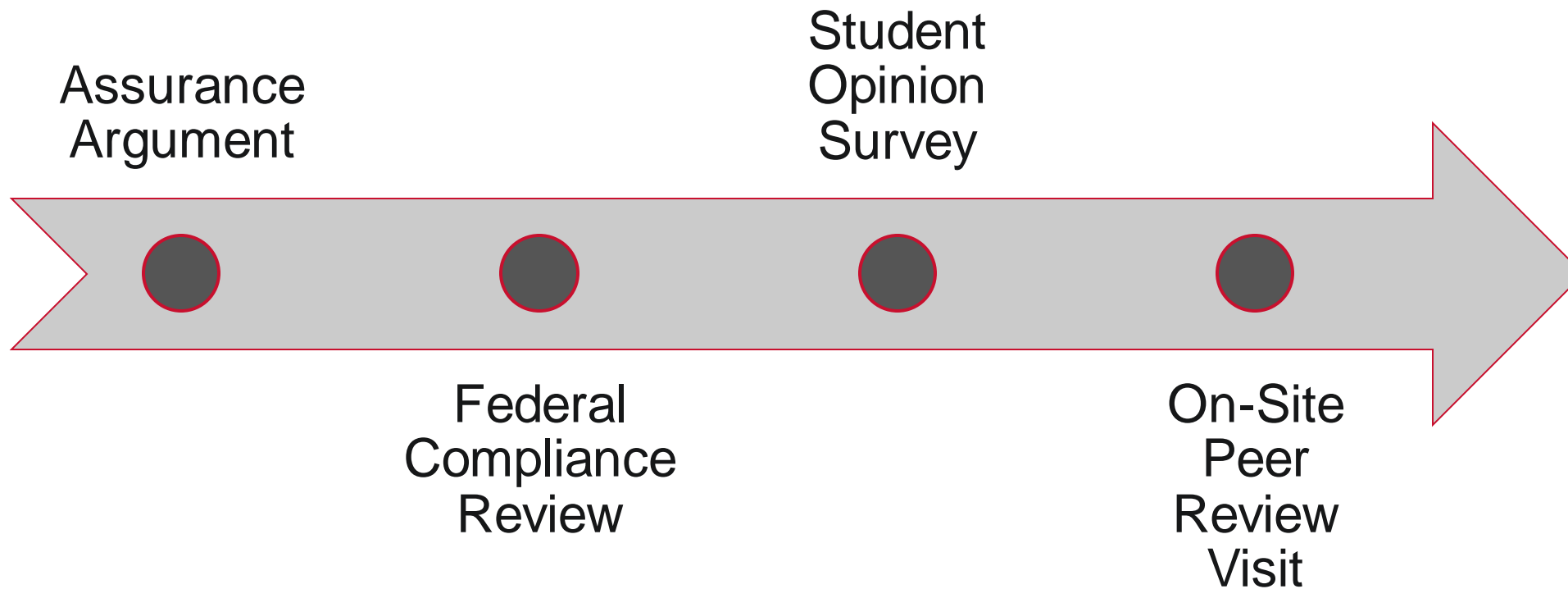
HLC Accreditation Process

Open Pathway: a 10-year cycle is focused on quality assurance and institutional improvement

Final year of the cycle: Comprehensive Evaluation

Years 1-3: Prepare Assurance Filing

Year 4: Assurance Review

Years 5-7: Quality Initiative Proposal

Years 7-9: Quality Initiative Report

Year 10: Comprehensive Evaluation
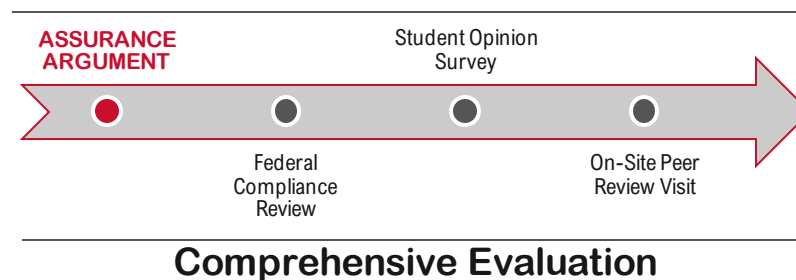
Northern Illinois University

Comprehensive Evaluation

Assurance Argument

- NIU will submit an assurance argument, along with materials of evidence, to demonstrate that we follow HLC's criteria for accreditation.

- The peer review team will review these materials in preparation for their on-site visit.

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT — Student Opinion Survey — Federal Compliance Review — On-Site Peer Review Visit

Comprehensive Evaluation

Criterion 1
Mission

Criterion 2
Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

Criterion 3
Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support

Criterion 4
Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

Criterion 5
Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

Accreditation Criteria
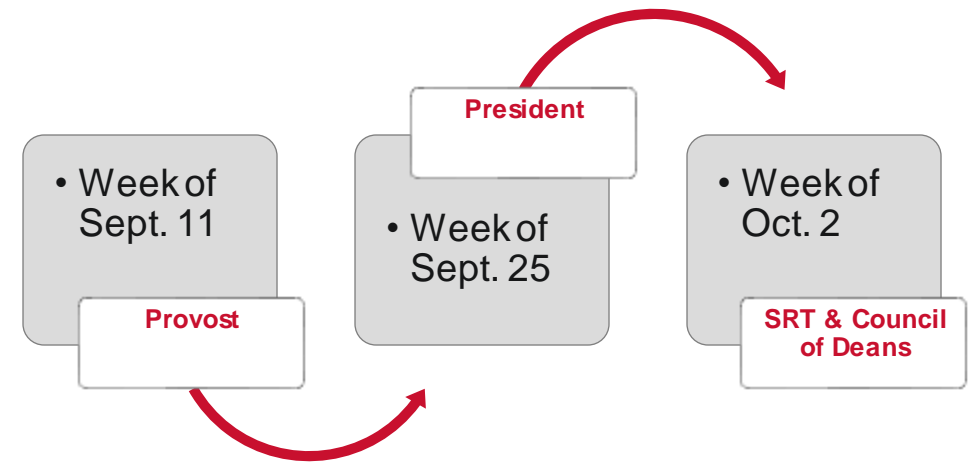
Evidence for the Criteria

Our evidence should do the following:

- Substantiate the facts and arguments presented in our institutional narrative.

- Respond to the prior peer review team's concerns and recommendations.

- Explain any nuances specific to our institution.

- Strengthen our overall record of compliance with HLC's requirements.

- Affirm our overall academic quality and financial sustainability and integrity.

NIU

Northern Illinois University

Senior Leadership Review

The initial draft assurance argument with be shared with senior leadership for review prior to soliciting campus feedback.

- Week of Sept. 11

Provost

- Week of Sept. 25

President

- Week of Oct. 2

SRT & Council of Deans

Northern Illinois University

Campus Feedback

The university will release five, criteria-specific sections of the draft assurance argument to the campus community beginning in October for review and feedback.

OCT.	OCT.	NOV.	NOV.	NOV.	DEC.
Launch **Criterion 1** for review	Feedback on **Criterion 1** due/Launch **Criterion 2**	Feedback on **Criterion 2** due/ Launch **Criterion 3**	Feedback on **Criterion 3** due/Launch **Criterion 4**	Feedback on **Criterion 4** due/Launch **Criterion 5**	Feedback on **Criterion 5** due

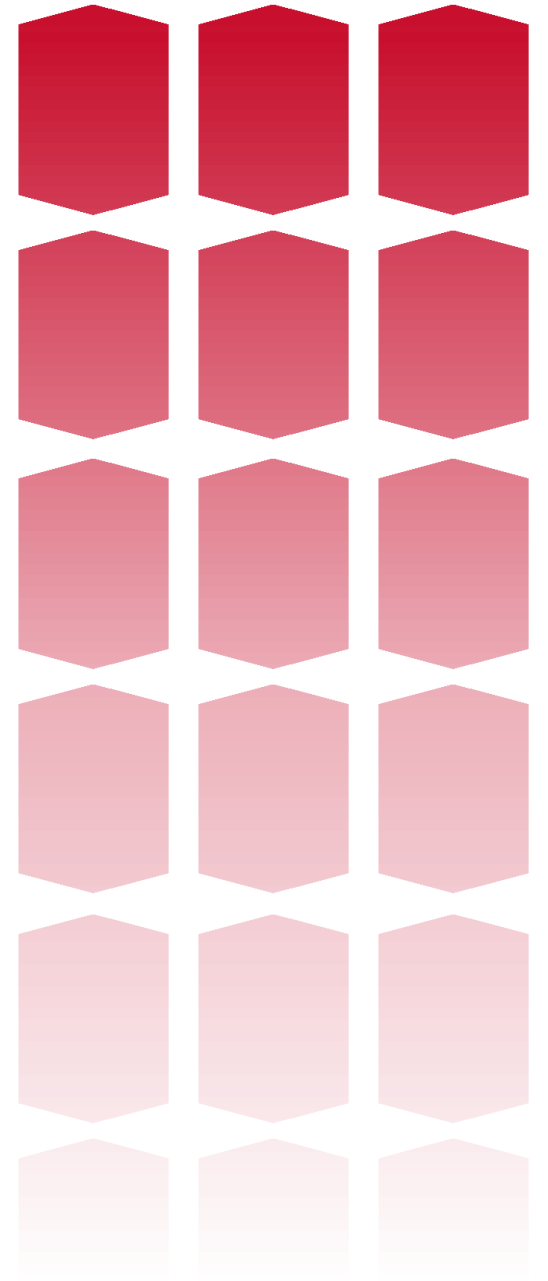**Northern Illinois University**

Communications

- Presentations to campus groups

- NIU HLC website

- Weekly email announcements for employees

- NIU Today

- The Provost Post (Academic Affairs e-newsletter) and college news blogs

- Digital signage

- Message on Blackboard

- PPT slides for classrooms and meetings

- Screensavers for labs and classrooms

- NIU Calendar

- Push notifications through NIU Mobile app and Huskie Hub

- Northern Star

- "Weekly Scroll" email for students

- Posts in class Facebook Groups

- Student Life website

Northern Illinois University

niu.edu/HLC

On-Site Peer Review Visit

- March 25-26, 2024

Timeline

Fall 2022
September 2022 – December 2022
- Begin drafting 2023-2024 assurance argument outline
- Create template based on HLC format and institutional themes
- Survey evidence sources

Spring 2023
January 2023 – May 2023
- Finalize assurance argument outline
- Draft argument based on outline for each criterion
- Evidence collection and editing begins

Summer 2023
May 2023 – August 2023
- Prepare penultimate draft of the assurance argument
- Evidence collecting and editing begins

Fall 2023
September 2023 – December 2023
- Evidence collecting and editing continues
- Make the assurance argument available for comment
- Incorporate assurance argument comments
- Prepare the final version of assurance argument
- Complete federal compliance review

Spring 2024
January 2024
- HLC survey of NIU students
- Submit the assurance argument report to HLC

February 2024
- Assurance system lock date

March 2024
- HLC site visit: March 25-26, 2024

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