

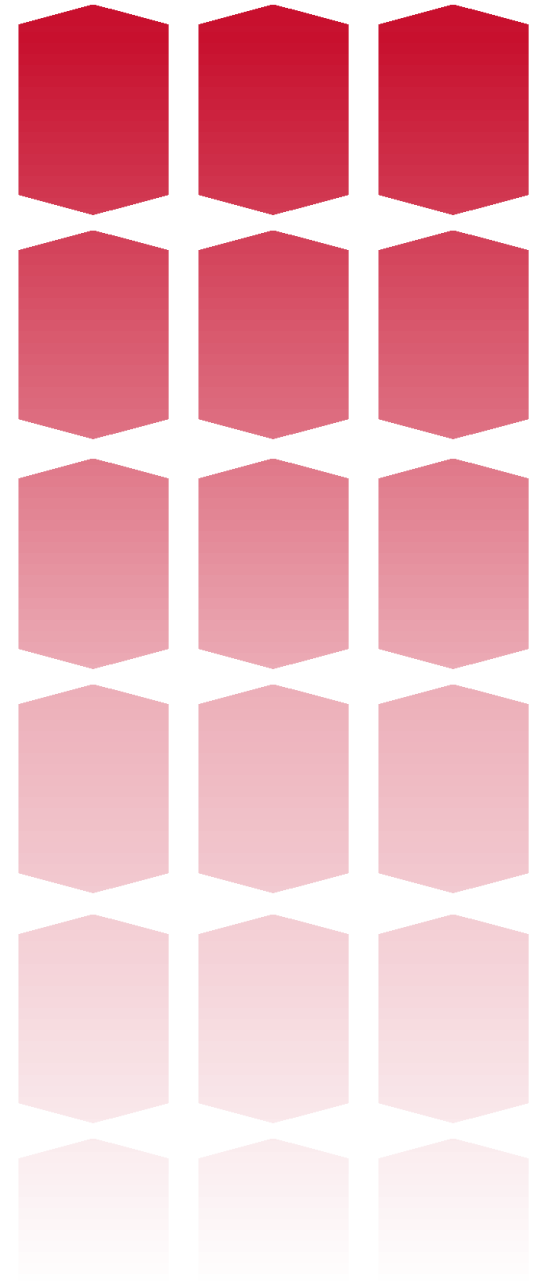


Northern Illinois
University

Higher Learning Commission

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

February 21, 2024



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.



The Importance of Accreditation

- It's required for NIU to receive federal funds.
- Together with specialized accreditations, it assures the public of our legitimacy.
- It's an opportunity to take stock of, and celebrate, our accomplishments.



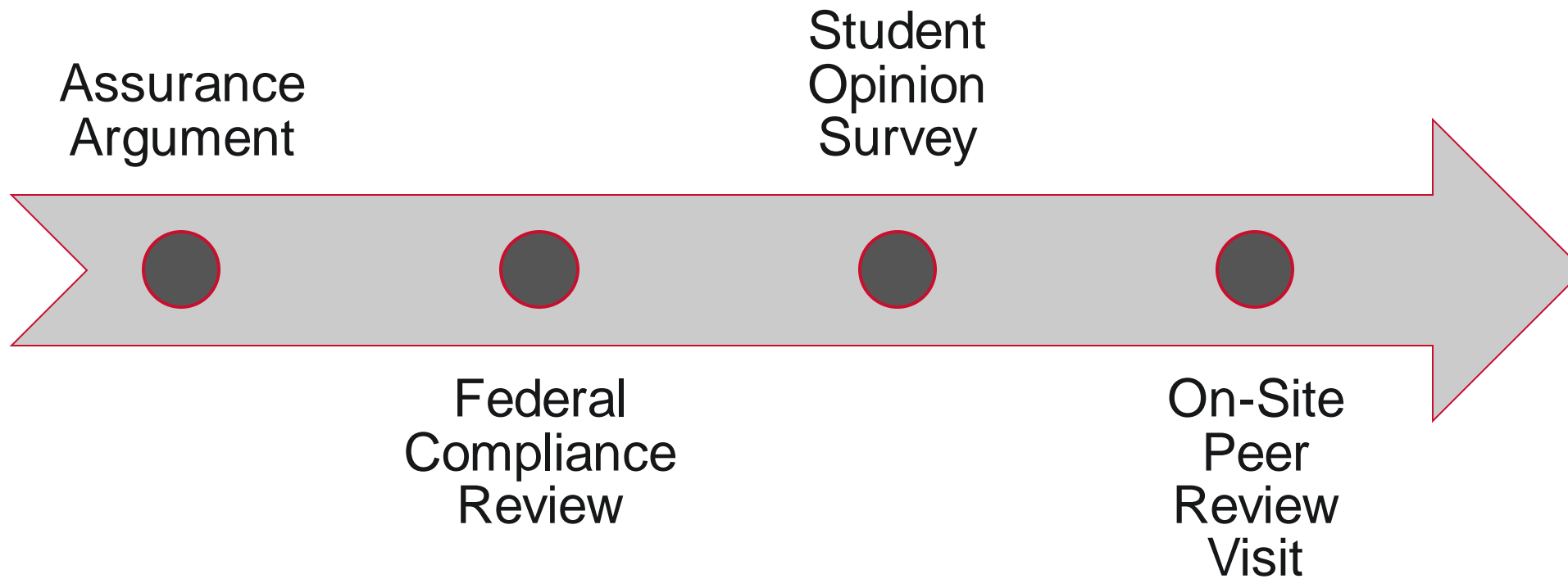
HLC Accreditation Process

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

Final year of the cycle: Comprehensive Evaluation

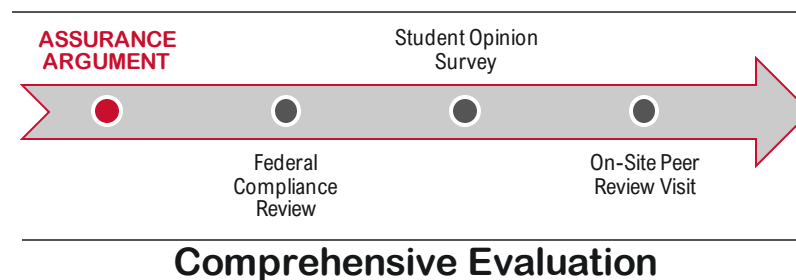


Comprehensive Evaluation



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.



Criterion 1

Mission

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

Criterion 2

**Integrity:
Ethical and
Responsible Conduct**

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

Criterion 3

**Teaching and
Learning: Quality,
Resources and
Support**

The institution provides quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Criterion 4
**Teaching and
Learning: Evaluation
and Improvement**

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Criterion 5
**Institutional
Effectiveness,
Resources and
Planning**

The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Evidence for the Criteria

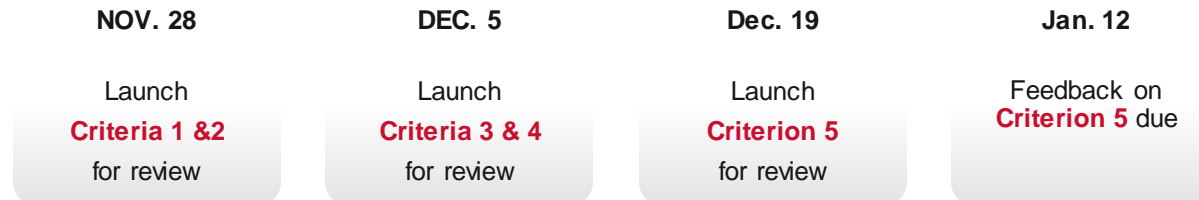
Our evidence should do the following:

- 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.



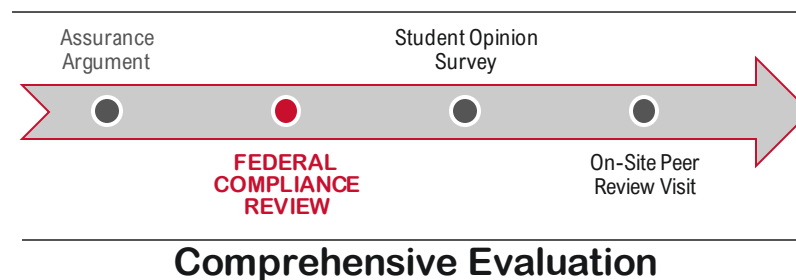
Campus Feedback

The university opened the assurance argument to the campus community from November – January.



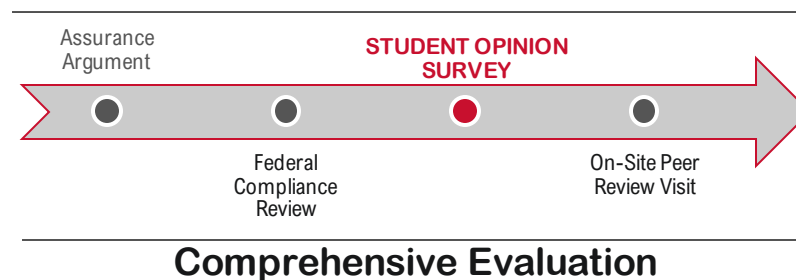
Federal Compliance Review

NIU must submit a federal compliance filing demonstrating that we are meeting our Title IV program responsibility and complying with the expectations of specific regulations set by the U.S. Department of Education.



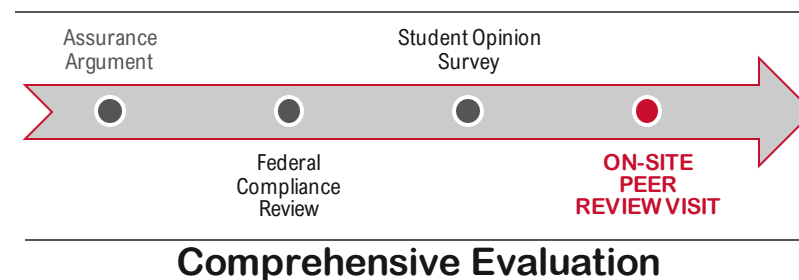
Student Opinion Survey

- Distributed via email two months prior to the peer review team's on-site visit.
- Gives students an opportunity to participate in the evaluation process and to help identify questions for the peer reviewers to ask while on site.



On-Site Peer Review Visit

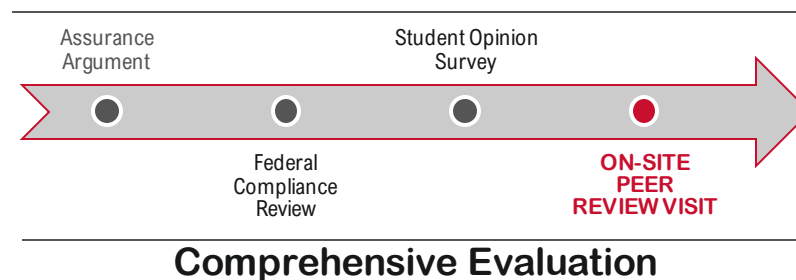
- March 25-26, 2024
- Agenda for visit typically includes meetings with leadership and board, and open forums with faculty, staff and students.



On-Site Peer Review Visit-Faculty Meetings

March 25, 2024

- Faculty Open Forum – 1:30-2:15 p.m.
- Faculty Senate – 3:30-4:45 p.m.



Questions?

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