



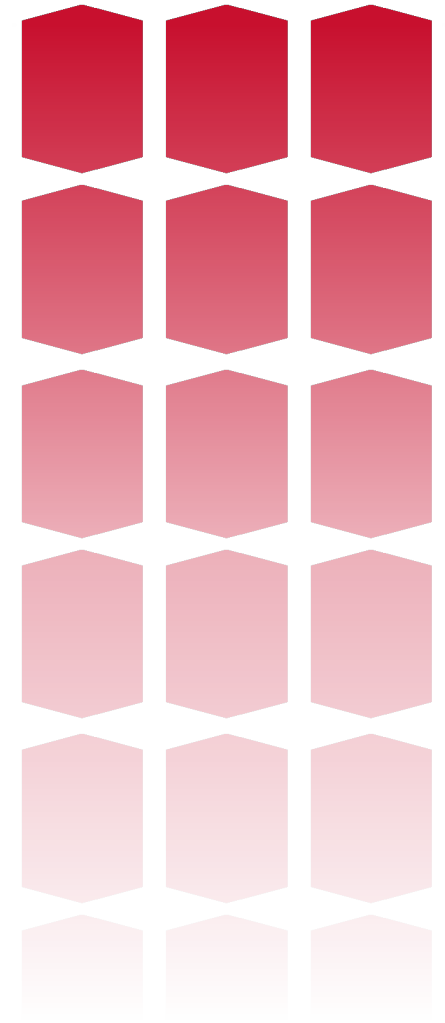
Northern Illinois
University

UPDATE

2023-2024

Higher Learning Commission
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Sept. 13, 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.



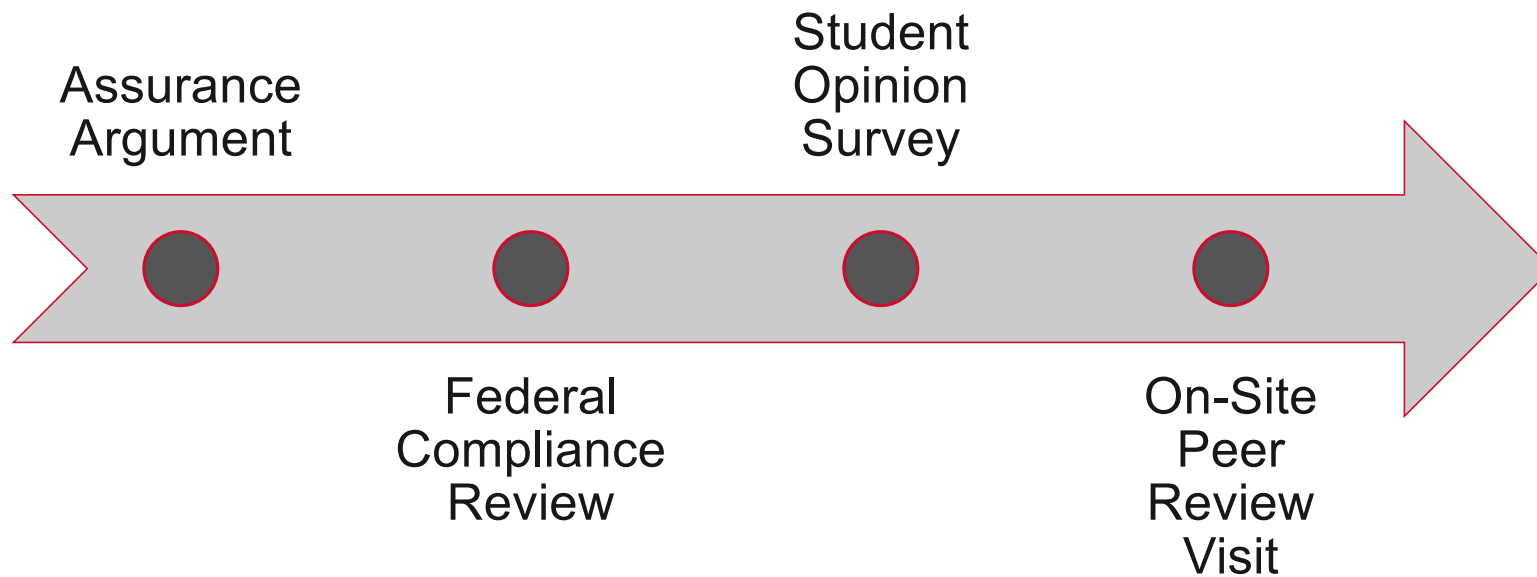
HLC Accreditation Process

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

Final year of the cycle: Comprehensive Evaluation

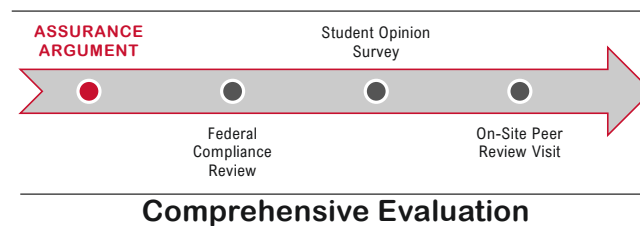


Comprehensive Evaluation



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

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.



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

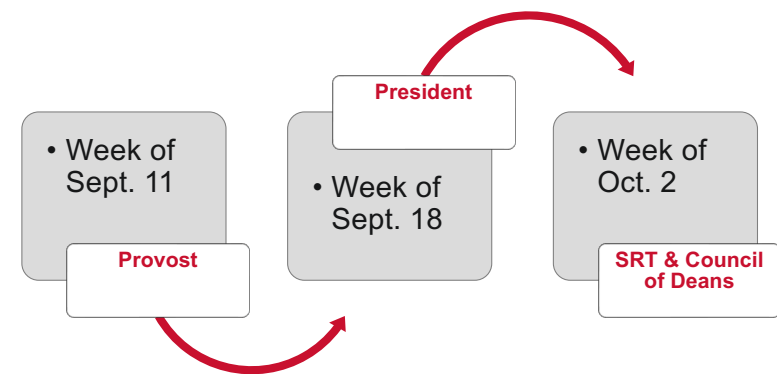
March 2024

- HLC site visit: March 25-26, 2024



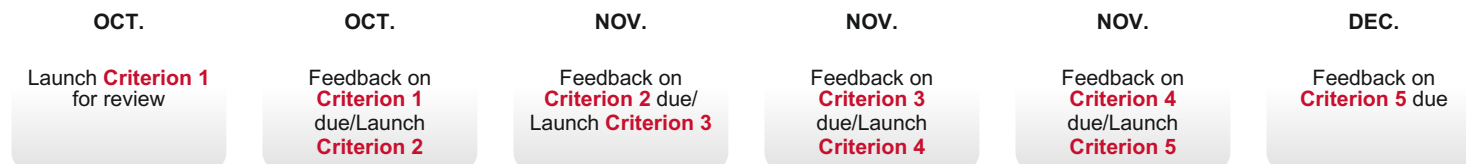
Senior Leadership Review

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



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.



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



On-Site Peer Review Visit

- March 25-26, 2024



Northern Illinois
University

[**niu.edu/HLC**](http://niu.edu/HLC)

