University of Cincinnati HLC/NCA Self-Study

The two-year University of Cincinnati self-study for reaccreditation culminates in the spring with a site visit from a team representing the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association.

Over the past year, a university-wide steering committee has overseen the work of five writing teams that are aligning the criteria of the self-study with the goals of UC|21. The criteria are:

- Mission and Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
- Engagement and Service

Timeline:

January: Draft of the self-study posted online. Comment period runs through Jan. 29.

Winter quarter: Organization of the resource room begins, located in TUC.

Feb. 8-9
Preview visit and preparations with Celestino Fernández, chair of the UC national HLC accreditation/evaluation team. Fernández, a professor of sociology at the University of Arizona, has served on accreditation review teams throughout the United States as well as internationally.

March 2-3
HLC consultant/evaluator visit by Elaine Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison assistant dean in the College of Letters and Science. Klein served as a consultant-evaluator for the University of Akron accreditation review.

March: Executive Summary of the self-study report made available.

April 26-29: Campus visit.

Summer 2009: The president receives a draft of the NCA/HLC report.

Fall 2009: Final commission action and recommendation for accreditation.
Key Findings:

- General Education is highlighted in the report and is continually revisited and improved. The transition to a semester-based model of General Education is currently under consideration.

- Perceptions of UC’s involvement and commitment to the Greater Cincinnati region have improved.

- After years of enrollment slippage, UC|21 strategies have resulted in record enrollment and this fall’s most academically prepared freshman class on campus.

- The creation of colleges’ UC|21 alignment reports

- The creation of the diversity council in support of the university’s mission

- Self-study emphasizes the transformation of campus from the last report

- Budget planning process now tied to academic priorities

- Challenges: Ensuring the university mission remains supported within the emerging University System of Ohio

- Recommendations include mandating a redesign of instruments for graduate and undergraduate program review to meet university-wide requirements

Support the Self-Study

- Help build general awareness
- Be available to meet with evaluators during the campus visit
- Review the report and executive summary
- Become familiar with key findings in the report

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