

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is an external review process assuring colleges, universities and education programs meet rigorous standards for quality assurance and improvement. Through institutional self-evaluation, peer review and institutional response, accreditation evaluates formal educational activities as well as institutional operations essential to the effectiveness of a college.

Kellogg Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional accreditor covering 19 states in the north central region of the United States. KCC has been fully accredited since 1972, with its most recent reaffirmation in 2012. In October 2021, an HLC peer review team will conduct an onsite visit as part of KCC's latest reaffirmation.

Why is it Important?

Accreditation assures that KCC meets the highest national educational standards, and

- Affirms that KCC is providing quality educational experiences for KCC students.
- Allows KCC students to receive federal financial aid.
- Aids in meeting licensure and employment requirements.
- Aids in credit transfer to other institutions.
- Provides valuable feedback on how well KCC is meeting its goals for student learning.
- Creates an opportunity for KCC to assess, evaluate and improve its programs and services.

Accreditation Criteria

HLC evaluates colleges and universities for education quality against a set of five quality criteria:

- Mission
- Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support
- Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
- Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

Accreditation Reaffirmation Timeline

KCC's HLC Reaffirmation process is under way. KCC self-study teams have already completed multiple evaluation reports in preparation of the final report. The onsite Peer Review visit will take place Oct. 18-19, 2021. KCC's accreditation information is available via the accreditation website at kellogg.edu/accreditation.

Accreditation Reaffirmation Process

HLC reaffirmation occurs on a 10-year cycle. KCC is following an Open Pathway model, which separates the process into three components: (1) a Mid-Cycle Review; (2) a Quality Initiative; and (3) a Comprehensive Evaluation and Assurance Review.

KCC's Accreditation Focus

ENGAGEMENT: Soliciting broad participation from diverse constituencies in gathering evidence for our comprehensive review, analyzing institutional performance and reviewing conclusions and recommendations.

TRANSPARENCY: Keeping all stakeholders fully informed regarding accreditation processes and activities.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: Recognizing programs and practices that contribute to KCC's overall success, and identifying others that can be created or further developed in support of KCC's teaching and service mission.

REAFFIRMATION: Achieving continued accreditation by meeting all HLC Criteria and Federal compliance requirements.

Get Involved

As members of the KCC community, your involvement in KCC's reaffirmation is essential. KCC's HLC Accreditation Steering Committee asks you to:

- **STAY INFORMED:** Through the accreditation website and updates from the HLC Accreditation Steering Committee.
- **CONTRIBUTE:** By providing comments, suggestions, and feedback to the Steering Committee at hlcaccreditation@kellogg.edu.

HLC Steering Committee

Dr. Martha Perkins (co-chair), Dr. Paul Watson (co-chair), Karel Asbury, Marcia Campbell, Eric Greene, Dr. Michele Reid

CRITERION 1 Dr. Kay Keck, Ron Smith

CRITERION 2 Dr. Deb Buck, Terah Zaremba

CRITERION 3 Kassie Dunham, Tim Krueger

CRITERION 4 Tonya Forbes, Matt Samra

CRITERION 5 Dr. Joe Vitanza, Vicki Rivera,

hlcaccreditation@kellogg.edu
kellogg.edu/accreditation