COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCREDITATION
VISIT TEAM MEMBER TRAINING
Part I: Accreditation Overview

State and Federal
Quality Programs and Services consistent with State Standards
Authority

Iowa Code 260C.47 - Accreditation of Community College Programs

Iowa Code 260C.48 - Standards for Accrediting Community College Programs
HLC’s Two Alternative Processes

**PEAQ** – Program to Evaluate & Advance Quality – transitioning to “Open Pathways” by 2015-16

**AQIP** – Academic Quality Improvement Program
The state accreditation process and High Learning Commission Evaluation process work together to avoid duplication.
10 Year Cycle with Interim Evaluations Occurring in Year 5
Two Components of State Accreditation

Assurance Component
Continuous Improvement Component
Some Examples include:

• Faculty Qualifications
• Faculty Load
• Strategic Planning
• Career and Technical Program Review
"An opportunity to have peers review specific practices and offer recommendations"
• Pre-Evaluation Prep
• Desk Review
• Site Visit
• Reporting
Phase I: Pre-Evaluation

- *Iowa Community College State Accreditation Guide*
- Special Topics Identification
- Accreditation Review Team
- Community College Profile
Conducted Prior to the on-site visit
Phase III: The On-Site Visit

Team Review and Collaboration
Phase IV: Reporting

Preparation of a Preliminary Summative Report
18 Interim Evaluations

- Limited Scope
- Focus on Prior Topics
- Conducted 5 years before and after last state evaluation
Part III: The Review Team
Department and Community College Staff
Compensation
Responsibilities

Iowa Code 260C.47
Responsibilities

Professionalism
Confidentiality
25 Commitment
Learners
Responsibilities On Site

- Initial Team Meeting
- Collaboration
- Conducting Interviews
- Independent Time
- Report Writing
- Final Team Meeting
- Exit Highlights
Accreditation Report
and
Accreditation Evaluation Form
Part IV: State Evaluation – HLC Criteria
Mission

Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Additional State Standards

- Faculty (Qualifications)
- Faculty Load
- Special Needs
- CTE Program Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Physical Plant and Facilities
- Quality Faculty Plan
- Senior Year Plus Programs
34 Special Topics
36 State Accreditation Report

- Institutional Overview
- Assurance Summary
- Continuous Improvement Summary
The Institutional Overview includes the following:

- A brief history of the institution
- An institutional profile prepared by the college highlighting unique activities
Assurance Summary

The assurance summary includes:

- Compliance with HLC criteria
- Compliance with additional state standards
- Adequacy of progress in addressing deficiencies identified during prior state evaluations
- Clearly identified issues which must be addressed & corrective timeline
The accreditation report may contain a summary of findings from the continuous improvement component or recommendations from the review team regarding other state or federal requirements.
Continuous summary examples include:

A summary of key practices implemented within or as a result of the college’s strategic plan that have advanced the vision, mission, and strategic priorities set forth by the institution.

A summary of the special topics review (if desired by the college)

Recommendations regarding compliance with state or federal requirements.
The report includes the evaluation team’s recommendations regarding the institution’s continued accreditation status.
The interim evaluation includes only the assurance summary and evaluation team recommendations.
Focus evaluations do not result in an accreditation report unless one is requested by the director of the Department or the State Board of Education. When a report is requested, the report’s scope is limited to the identified issue(s) and the evaluation team recommendations.
Part VI: Thank you!
Additional Questions