University Accreditation
Reaffirmation
Outline

• Institutional Effectiveness overview
• Scope of institutional accreditation
• Accreditation expectations
• Areas of focus – Teaching & Learning
  • Criterion 3 – Quality, Resources and Support
  • Criterion 4 – Evaluation and Improvement
• Kent State’s timeline
• Ongoing accreditation activities
• Upcoming site visit (April 14-15, 2025)
Institutional Effectiveness

Accreditation
- Institutional accreditation
- Specialized accreditation

Assessment
- Assessment of student learning
- Survey administration

Program Review
- Facilitate reviews of academic program quality
- Coordination of site visits

Institutional Research
- Analysis and decision support
- Reporting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees and groups</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment (ACAA)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/advisory-committee-academic-assessment-acaa">https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/advisory-committee-academic-assessment-acaa</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Accreditation and Accountability Committee (UAAC)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/UAAC">https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/UAAC</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Support Group</td>
<td><a href="https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/assessment-support-group">https://www.kent.edu/provost/aal/assessment-support-group</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institutional accreditation

- Ten-year continuous improvement encompassing the entire institution
- Access to federal funding and financial aid for students
- Ability to transfer course credits
- Requirement for specific career fields
- Accountability and transparency
- Federal compliance
Kent State University
Higher Learning Commission Open Pathway 10-Year Cycle

- **2015 to 2018 (Years 1-3)**: Successfully completed assurance filing. Institution contributes documents to the Evidence File and begins writing the Assurance Argument in preparation for the Year 4 Assurance Review.

- **June 2019**: Successfully completed assurance filing.

- **Spring 2022 (Years 4-6)**: Successfully completed proposal. Institution submits the Quality Initiative Proposal. Also begins preparing the Assurance Filing for the Year 10 Comprehensive Evaluation.

- **May 2024 (Years 7-9)**: Successfully completed proposal. Institution submits Quality Initiative Report. Also continues preparing the Assurance Filing for the Year 10 Comprehensive Evaluation.

- **April 14-15, 2025**: Year 10 Comprehensive Evaluation. Institution submits Comprehensive Evaluation materials for institution reaffirmation and hosts a Peer Review Team site visit.

**KSU is Here**
Accreditation expectations

**Institutional**
- processes to assure its own quality and provide evidence
- on-site visit by a team of peer reviewers every 10 years to “reaffirm” status
- positive standing with other accreditors
- additional “Open Pathway” requirements

**Specialized/Programmatic**
- curriculum meets defined standards
- evidence and data that the standards of the discipline are met
- student pass rates, placement and metrics at required level
Criteria for accreditation

1. Mission
2. Integrity: Ethical and responsible conduct
3. Teaching and learning: Quality, resources and support
4. Teaching and learning: Evaluation and improvement
5. Institutional effectiveness: Resources and planning
Areas of focus – Teaching & Learning

**Quality, Resources and Support**

- Appropriate academic rigor and consistent quality
- General education appropriate to mission with established framework
- Qualified faculty and staff in sufficient numbers for programs who are regularly evaluated
- Support for student learning and resources for effective teaching

**Evaluation and Improvement**

- A system of program review, evaluation of credit awarded, assurance of equivalent learning and appropriate accreditations to ensure quality
- Effective assessment of student learning and use of results
- Appropriate retention, persistence and completion goals with analysis of data to support decisions and improvement
Ongoing accreditation activities

- **Institutional update** (each March/April) and **risk indicator** review
  - non-financial – basic institutional info, academic offerings, head counts, locations, campuses, [student achievement data website link](#)
  - financial – general info, data to calculate CFI
- **Accreditor adverse actions** (136 programs with 44 accreditors)
- **Complaints**
- **Substantive change requests**
  - new programs, locations, campuses
  - program changes (hours, length, content, delivery method, customized pathways)
- **Multi-location visits** (every 5 years)
- **Quality Initiative report** (June 1, 2024)
- **Student survey** (February 14, 2025)
- **Assurance argument**, evidence, multi-campus report, **Federal Compliance** (March 17, 2025)
- **Site visit** (April 14-15, 2025)
  - team of peer reviewers
  - report back on visit in 4-6 weeks
  - decision process
  - public action

Ways to engage now

• Review the university’s **accreditation website** to better understand the basics of accreditation
• Check the **reaffirmation website** for updates and educational materials
• Communicate with others in your college and across campus about accreditation
• Encourage your colleagues to participate in open forums during the site visit
• **Submit evidence** that will support the assurance argument
What to expect during the site visit

• Multiple open forums, some focused on the criteria, at which you could potentially speak with the team
• A possible invitation to a focus meeting about a topic the team wants to know more about (e.g., budget model, program review, advising)
• A last-minute request from your ALO for a specific piece of information a reviewer wants to see (please) (did I mention how awesome I think you are?)
See updates: [https://www.kent.edu/kent/accreditation/2025-accreditation-reaffirmation](https://www.kent.edu/kent/accreditation/2025-accreditation-reaffirmation)

Ask questions: [accreditation@kent.edu](mailto:accreditation@kent.edu)

Send evidence: [https://www.kent.edu/kent/accreditation/hlc-evidence-accreditation](https://www.kent.edu/kent/accreditation/hlc-evidence-accreditation)
Additional accreditation resources

• The Leaflet
• HLC White Papers
• Guidelines on HLC Requirements
• HLC Policies
  • Criteria and Requirements
  • HLC Obligations
  • Compliance with Federal Regulation
  • Institutional Processes