

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Open Pathway Year 4 Assurance Review Report

- Purpose:

In *The Open Pathway Year 4 Assurance Review* the institution provides continued evidence that it complies with the Criteria for Accreditation.

- Requirement:

Update Year 10 Assurance Argument using revised HLC criterion, addressing institutional changes and recommendations that the Year 10 peer review team provided.

- Report:

Complete rewrite of three of the five criterion and significant updates of the other two.



HLC Assurance Argument Writing Team

Criterion Writing Team:

Criterion 1 – Tami Martinez & Doug McMillen

Criterion 2 – Jenny Deranek, Scott Opasik & Bhavik Pathak

Criterion 3 – Rick Dennie & Lee Kahan

Criterion 4 – Doug McMillen, Yu Song & Lyle Zynda

Criterion 5 – Jerry Hinnefeld & Brenda Phillips

Data and Evidence File Support

Xiaoxu Shan

Evidence File Reviewer:

Teresa Sheppard reviewed all 350+ evidence files, imported, and converted all the web-based files to a common and consistent pdf format.



HLC Assurance Argument Writing Team

Criterion Draft Reviewers:

Criterion 4c – Raman Adaikkalavan

Criterion 5c – Dan Petree & Lars Schlereth

Full Draft – Linda Chen, Susan Elrod, Elizabeth Paice & Jill Pearson

Loaded Final Draft – Linda Chen & Kyoko Takanashi

Special thanks:

Linda Chen who read each individual draft as they were completed, help to significantly improved Criterion 4, and reviewed the response to the HLC Assurance Argument Review Committee.

Kyoko Takanashi who gave the document a final proof before submission. She not only improved the grammar and clarity, but also gave the document a consistent voice.



HLC Assurance Argument Writing Team

HLC Assurance Argument System Advisor:

Suzanne Hinnefeld for her advice and pointers for file documentation and best practice for entering the information into the HLC Assurance Argument System

Deans, VCAF Office & Academic Senate Executive Committee:

For prompt responses to requests for evidence files

COVID-19 Response Narrative:

Brenda Phillips for pulling together the evidence files and writing the document in less than a week

Argument submitted on May 16, 2022



HLC Assurance Team Response

Response Letter (June 21, 2022):

“This letter serves to inform you that Indiana University South Bend has successfully completed its Year 4 Assurance Review with no recommended monitoring.”

Final Report

All areas met, but recommended the following for the next ten-year assurance argument:

- Documentation of required office hours per week
- Documentation for timely posting of syllabi to students
- Updated institution assessment plan
- The institution should consider providing evidence related to post-tenure review/evaluation



Quality Initiative for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Years 5-9:

- One major improvement effort.
- May begin and be completed during this time, or it may continue an initiative already in progress or achieve a key milestone in the work of a longer initiative.

Year 10 (2028):

- 10-year assurance argument due.