Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation 2021

December 3, 2020
We would like to first pay honor and tribute to the original inhabitants of this land. This region includes the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.
TOPIC: Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation 2021

Panelist:

Gail Burd

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Teaching and Learning
Distinguished Professor
Professor, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Professor, Cellular and Molecular Medicine
Meeting Arrangement

This meeting is an official meeting of the University of Arizona.

• As with any official meeting, courtesy and professionalism are paramount.
  • See UHAP 7.01.01 Statement on Professional Conduct: We are inclusive and respectful and we provide a safe environment for those who work, learn, and visit with us.

• The meeting will be recorded, and the Q&A and Chat feeds will form part of the official record of this meeting.

• Anyone who engages in ad hominem attacks, or uses foul language, or limits the voices of others will receive one warning from the moderator team. If the behavior continues the individual will be removed from the meeting.
Housekeeping

- **To ask questions live** during the webinar, please **submit your question in the Q&A window and raise your hand** using the hand icon located on the bottom of Zoom page.

- When called upon, you will be unmuted for others to hear. Please expect a slight lag. Due to Zoom limitations, we regret we are not able to show your video image without losing your access to the Q&A and chat history.

- The Chat function allows you to send chat messages to your colleagues in the meeting.

- The webinar Recording, the Q&A feed, the Chat feed, and any presentation materials will be available after the webinar at [https://provost.arizona.edu/content/provost-forum](https://provost.arizona.edu/content/provost-forum).
Higher Learning Commission
Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Site Visit: April 26 and 27, 2021
(likely virtual with one in-person reviewer)

Gail Burd
Introduction

**UArizona accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**
- one of seven regional accreditation commissions
- recognized by U.S. Department of Education
- review every college and university in the nation

**Last comprehensive evaluation in 2010**
Validated the university’s high quality and integrity in:
- Academics
- Research
- Finances and administration
- Planning
- Faculty and staff
- Resources and facilities
- Student services
- Policies and procedures
Review Components

Focus of the reaffirmation of accreditation review
- quality assurance
- institutional improvement

Comprehensive evaluation ensures university meets:
- criteria for accreditation
- assumed practices
- requirements of the U.S. Department of Education

https://www.hlcommission.org/
What is Reviewed and Why

HLC assumes and confirms that appropriate academic programs have **specialized accreditation**.

**BUT HLC Accreditation** takes place at a **higher level** and is:

• required for the university to operate
• provide federal financial aid
• award accredited degrees

**All colleges, campuses, distance locations, academic programs, and processes** must be approved and will be reviewed by HLC.
Expected Special Focus Areas

Areas expected to be closely examined:
- Assessment of student learning outcomes
- General Education
- Syllabi
- Faculty Qualifications for Instruction

New challenges expected during the review:
- Shared Governance
- Financial Planning
- Ashford purchase
Schedule and Sessions for the Visit

• Schedule determined by the Chair of the HLC Peer Review team
• No power point presentations
• No additional data or copies of evidence unless requested

HLC expects:
all administrators, deans, directors, department heads, and many faculty, staff, and students are aware of the importance of the visit and will be available for meetings with the HLC Peer Review Committee.
Is UArizona Prepared for the Review?

**Short answer: We will be.**

- Updated policies and practices
- Drafted Assurance Argument (self-study) with embedded evidence
- Completed review of the Federal Compliance requirements

Personnel involved in these preparations include:

- Three provosts
- Steering Committee
- Five Criteria Committees with co-chairs and 10-15 members
- Federal Compliance Committee
- Communication Committee
- IT support committee for virtual visit
- Faculty Associates from every college
HLC Steering Committee

Gail Burd, HLC Executive Director; Sr Vice Provost Academic Affairs, Teaching, and Learning; HLC Peer reviewer for five years

Barbara Mills, Co-Chair HLC Steering Committee; Regents Professor, Anthropology

Roger Miesfeld, Co-Chair HLC Steering Committee; Distinguished Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry; UA Global Associate Dean

Shelley McGrath, Accreditation Liaison Officer; Manager, Evaluation and Communication

Kat Francisco, HLC System Administrator; Manager, Academic Affairs

Cindy Williams, Project Support and Federal Compliance
Criteria Co-Chairs

Criteria 1: Mission
• Jessica Summers, Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies
• Meg Lota Brown, Professor, English

Criteria 2: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
• Sangita Pawar, Vice President of Operations, RII
• Helena Rodrigues, Vice President Human Resources

Criteria 3: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
• Lisa Elfring, Associate Vice Provost for Instruction and Assessment
• Susan Miller-Cochran, Director General Education and Professor of English
• Melody Buckner, Associate Vice Provost, Digital Learning
Criteria 4: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
• Elaine Marchello, Assistant Director, OIA Assessment
• Christine Salvesen, Assistant Vice Provost

Criteria 5: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning
• Jane Hunter, VP Strategic Initiatives
• Tim Schwab, Executive Director, Administrative Services, UITS

Federal Compliance: U.S. Department of Education Requirements
• Shelley McGrath, Manager, Evaluation and Communication
• Sarah Wieland, Assistant Vice Provost for Distance Education
Thank you

Save the date!
April 26 & 27, 2021