

Summary of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Academy for Assessment of Student Learning Proposal

9/19/09

Concept: As part of UW-Superior's long-term planning effort on assessment of student learning, our institution would apply for admission to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Academy for Assessment of Student Learning from 2010-2013

What is the Academy?

- The Academy for Assessment of Student Learning offers HLC member institutions a four-year sequence of events and interactions that focus on understanding, confirming, and improving student learning.
- The Academy experience is intended to develop institutional culture and increase institutional commitment to assessing and improving student learning.
- Participation in the Academy is designed to generate evidence for accreditation evaluations and follow-up.

For whom is it designed?

- The Academy is designed for all accredited institutions, whether they are maintaining affiliation through PEAQ or AQIP.
- It is targeted to the majority of institutions, not the 10% that are adept in assessing and improving student learning, not the 10% that are adamantly opposed to doing so, and not solely those institutions with mandated follow-up on assessment.
- 120 institutions have entered the Academy in one of six cohorts over the past two years.
- Participation in the Academy is widespread and represents a full cross-section of the HLC membership.

What are the advantages of participation?

- Accepted as evidence for Criteria and Core components in upcoming accreditation evaluations; UW-Superior is next scheduled for a HLC Accreditation Review process in 2012/2013
- Can serve in place of mandated progress reports, monitoring reports and focused visits on assessment of student learning (PEAQ)

What is the selection process?

- Design six question application packet; key areas include (evidence of need/benefit; commitment and focus; potential impact and cohort mix)

- Independent Review: a trained panel consisting of institutional representatives will review each application individually and make recommendations based on the Criteria for Selection
- Consensus Review: Commission staff facilitate a telephone conference among the panelists on the initial recommendations, provide input and record the consensus
- Decision: the decision may be that an institution is accepted, deferred accepted to a later date, or not accepted
- Acceptance of Invitation: within 60 days of notification of acceptance, the applying institution will sign an agreement letter to participate