

# AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY®

## Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update

Fall 2018

Nate Hallanger, Director of Academic Administration and HLC Liaison

### Background

Augsburg University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) through the HLC's [Open Pathway](#). The Open Pathway is a [10-year cycle](#) of accreditation activities. Augsburg's current 10-year cycle began with our last reaffirmation of accreditation in the 2014-2015 academic year, and will conclude with our next reaffirmation of accreditation in 2024-2025. (Prior to 2014-2015, Augsburg had been on the [AQIP Pathway](#).)

The Open Pathway requires that we engage in reporting and monitoring activities throughout the 10-year period. We report data to HLC annually; we must submit an extensive institutional report in year 4, called an assurance filing, that demonstrates ongoing compliance with the [criteria for accreditation](#); we must identify a quality initiative in years 5-7; we must report on that quality initiative in years 7-9; and, finally, we must produce an assurance filing, federal compliance document, distribute a student survey, and host a site-visit in year 10.

The 2014-2015 reaffirmation of accreditation included a required interim report to "provide evidence that program review has taken place, and improvements, resulting from assessment data, have been implemented." In July 2016, the [feedback from HLC](#) on that interim report noted progress on implementing program review and on assessment of student learning; however, it required the following be included in our assurance filing in 2019:

The institution is required to submit an additional report, to be embedded in the Assurance Filing for its Open Pathway Assurance Review in 2018-2019. Specifically, **the report should provide evidence that the institution's academic programs have in place program/major-level learning outcomes that are linked to the College's institutional outcomes.**

So this will be our primary focus, given that it has been cited as an area of concern on two separate occasions since 2014-2015.

### **Work in 2018-2019 on Assurance Filing**

The assurance filing, due July 1, 2019, is being written and will be submitted using an online system provided by HLC. The system also enables us to upload documentation and evidence to link to our narrative. We plan to circulate an initial draft in December-January, and a second draft in March-April. However, I anticipate many faculty and staff will be involved in specific sections prior to the drafts being circulated.

The following individuals are coordinating evidence-gathering and narrative-drafting. They will be engaging different groups and individuals to assist them as needed. Though not listed here, there are 3-5 specific “core components” to address under each criterion.

#### **Criterion 1. Mission: The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.**

Leif Anderson, Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer

#### **Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct: The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.**

Nate Hallanger, Director of Academic Administration

#### **Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support: The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.**

Monica Devers, Dean of Professional Studies

#### **Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement: The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.**

Kristen Chamberlain, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Film, and New Media, and Director of Assessment

#### **Criterion 5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness: The institution’s resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.**

Leif Anderson, Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, and Katy Hahn, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

In addition, Dave Matz, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Rebecca Ganzel, Cataloging Librarian, are part of the HLC assurance filing team.