



Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation Campus Visit

On November 7 and 8, 2016 the University will host a team of four peer-reviewers representing the Higher Learning Commission as they conduct a comprehensive review leading to re-accreditation of the university. The team will hold a series of scheduled meetings, interviews and public forums as they work to validate the claims made in the Assurance Argument regarding our achievement of each of the five Criterion for Accreditation.

You can contribute to an effective review process in many ways:

1. Review LSSU's Assurance Argument

<http://www.lssu.edu/hlc/documents/assuranceargument2016aug30.pdf>

and other related documents on the accreditation web page: <http://www.lssu.edu/hlc/>

2. Review LSSU's mission, vision, values, and goals: <http://www.lssu.edu/president/mission.php>

LSSU Mission Statement - Our mission at Lake Superior State University is to help students develop their full potential. We launch students on paths to rewarding careers and productive, satisfying lives. We serve the regional, state, national and global communities by contributing to the growth, dissemination, and application of knowledge.

3. Review LSSU's strategic planning priorities and processes:

<http://www.lssu.edu/president/strategicplanning.php>

CAFÉ (Culture – Academics – Finance – Enrollment)

4. Plan to be available when the HLC team is on campus. Although we will have a formal schedule prior to the visit, this schedule may change as the team develops additional questions.

What will the visiting team ask?

The following lists provide examples of the types of questions review teams are likely to ask. The examples are not exhaustive, and you should expect the team to ask additional general and LSSU-specific questions. Please answer all questions candidly and thoughtfully. LSSU's Assurance Argument was developed by a college-wide team and it identifies and discusses LSSU's strengths and challenges. The evaluation team will be aware of these. Your interactions with the evaluation team will reinforce our self-study findings and provide strong evidence for the Criteria for Accreditation.

General Questions

1. What do you know about institutional vs programmatic accreditation?
2. What do you know about the Higher Learning Commission and its role in accreditation?
4. How would you state LSSU's mission in your own words? Where you would find the official LSSU mission statement?
5. How does your school office or department contribute to LSSU's mission?
6. How do you contribute to LSSU's mission?
7. Have you reviewed LSSU's Assurance Argument?

8. Are you aware of any areas of weakness noted in the last reaccreditation visit and how the university has moved to address those?
9. How has the recent reorganization related to the university mission?
10. What are LSSU's current strategic planning priorities?
11. What are LSSU's greatest strengths?
12. What are the biggest challenges facing LSSU?
13. What makes LSSU unique in your state and among higher education institutions in general?
14. How would you describe the university's climate with respect to diversity? What types of diversity are present on campus?
15. What is it like to work at LSSU? How is morale on campus?
16. Do you think that academics are the top priority at LSSU? Why or why not?
17. Describe any campus or district processes that could be improved or made more efficient.
15. What kind of changes are taking place at LSSU? Do you see these as positive or not?

Questions for Faculty

1. What are the characteristics of a LSSU education, what are the shared outcomes common to all LSSU graduates?
2. What is your School's mission statement? How does this relate to LSSU's mission?
3. Describe the probationary faculty promotion/tenure process, what is your impression of the process?
4. Talk about shared governance process, the recent changes to shared governance, and how faculty participate in decision-making at different levels of the school, campus, college.
5. How would you describe the relationship between faculty and administration? What works and what needs improvement?
6. Describe the relationship between the LSSU main campus and the regional centers. What collaborations currently exist, are they effective?
7. What resources are available to support faculty (e.g., library, internal grants, external grant support, faculty development, travel, etc.)? Are these sufficient in meeting faculty needs?
8. Is your school actively involved in assessing student learning? How has your school used its assessment findings? What evidence do you have that students achieve your program's intended learning outcomes?
9. What evidence do you collect related to how your students do once they graduate?
10. What is the purpose of LSSU's general education program? In what ways does the program achieve its goals for students? How could it be improved?
11. Relevant to some common faculty issues (workload, salary, sabbatical leaves, etc.), what works well and what needs to be improved?
12. What is the role of faculty in ensuring academic quality?
13. Does your school offer courses or programs via distance education? If so, how does the department ensure the quality of the curriculum regardless of how or where it is delivered?

Questions for Staff

1. How does your department support the academic mission of LSSU?
2. What is it like to be a staff member at LSSU?
3. What opportunities do you have for professional development? Are staff members treated equitably in their access to these opportunities?
4. How are staff evaluated at LSSU? What is your impression of the evaluation process?
5. How are staff involved in campus decision-making processes? Do you think that staff have sufficient input into decisions that affect them?

6. How would you describe the relationship between staff and administration? What works and what could be improved?
7. What are some important benefits about working at LSSU? What do you like best about your job? What would you change if you could?
8. How do units across campus work collaboratively? What works well and what could be improved?
9. Do you feel that the work you do is valued by administration? Faculty? Other staff members? Students?
10. How does your department contribute to student learning and development? How does your department assess or evaluate effectiveness?

Questions for Students

1. Why did you choose to enroll at LSSU? Have your expectations been met?
2. What do you think is special about an LSSU education?
3. Would you recommend LSSU to other students?
4. What do you like best about LSSU? What would you change if you could?
5. Have you experienced any problems getting the courses you need in a timely manner?
6. Describe your experiences with academic advising.
7. Do you know where to go for help with the following? (a) academic support; (b) career planning; (c) personal counseling; (e) making a complaint; (f) technology support.
8. Do you use any of the following: library, tutoring services, dining services, recreational facilities? If yes, what has been your experience?
9. How is the relationship between students and faculty?
10. What opportunities do you have to participate in community or service learning experiences? Interact with people and cultures different from your own? Gain real world experience related to your educational and career goals?
11. To what extent do you think that your LSSU education has prepared you for further graduate study and/or employment?
12. If you have transferred in credits, what was the experience like for you?
13. Do you think LSSU is clear in its communication with students about topics such as financial aid, student conduct, costs, and graduation requirements? What improvements would you recommend?

Derived from Metropolitan Community College's guide:

<http://blogs.mcckc.edu/mcchlc/files/2014/01/Preparing-for-the-HLC-Campus-Visit.pdf>

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