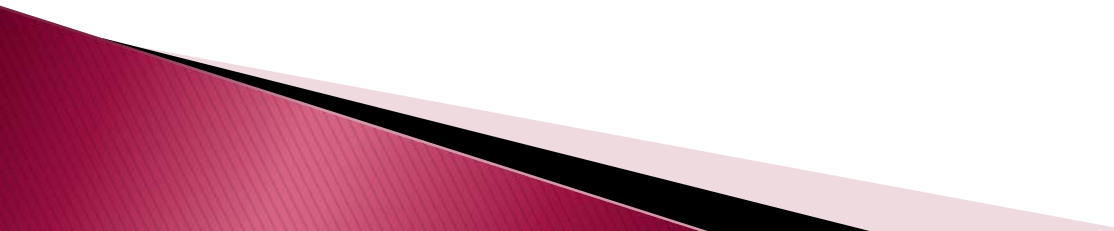


HLC ACCREDITATION

Yes, It's Time!

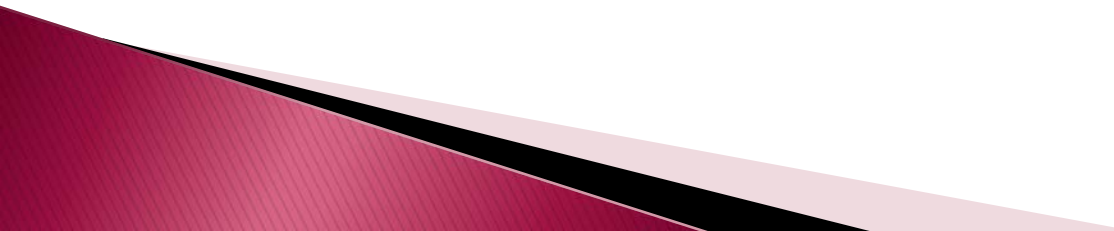
THE NEXT VISIT . . .

- ▶ 10 years after the most recent visit (2003-04)
 - ▶ 2013-14 (probably spring semester)
 - ▶ SMSU proposes dates; HLC replies
 - ▶ Much to be done prior to the visit!
- 

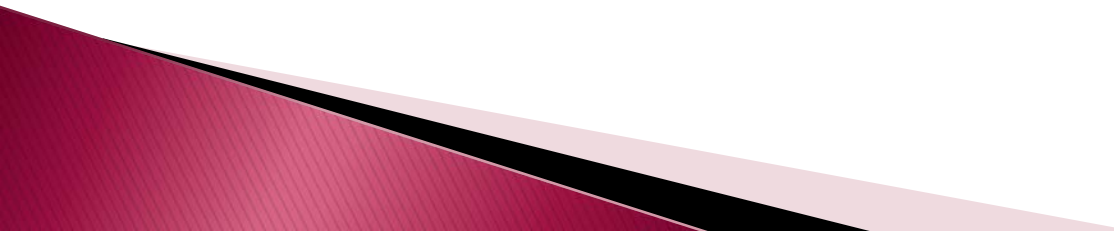
What's HLC????

- ▶ HLC stands for the Higher Learning Commission
- ▶ HLC is a non-governmental regional accrediting agency with responsibility for colleges/universities in the north/central region of the U. S.
- ▶ Accreditation is required by the U. S. Department of Education
- ▶ Colleges/universities not accredited cannot receive federal funding (including financial aid for students). States do not award funding to unaccredited institutions.

What's HLC, cont'd . . .

- ▶ If SMSU were to lose accreditation, students' degrees would not transfer or qualify for grad school
 - ▶ US Department of Education is pressuring regional accrediting agencies
 - ▶ Recently, USDE reversed HLC's accreditation of a university
 - ▶ HLC review will be tougher this time around
- 

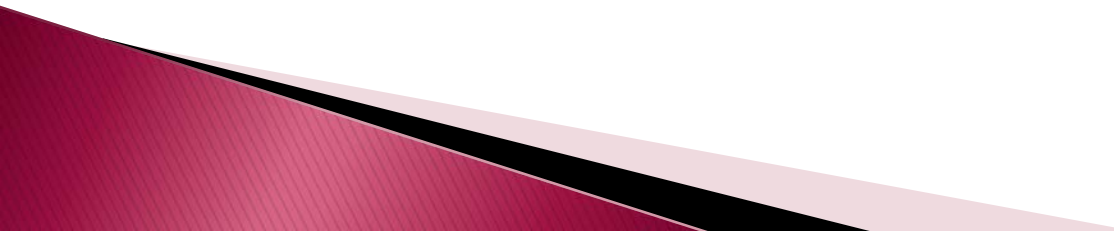
What we lacked last time . . .

- ▶ A coherent, integrated general education program, clearly tied to student learning outcomes
 - ▶ An assessment plan for general education
- 

After the last visit . . .

- ▶ SMSU was required to turn in a progress report on general education
- ▶ One report turned into two: 2007, 2009
- ▶ SMSU now has an LAC plan and student learning outcomes, and will have an assessment plan
- ▶ HLC will look for progress toward closing the loop on assessment

BEFORE THE VISIT . . .

- ▶ Appoint self-study coordinator
 - ▶ Appoint steering committee
 - ▶ Review self-study process
 - ▶ Review criteria for accreditation
 - ▶ Establish goals for the self-study
 - ▶ Gather information and data
 - ▶ Conduct self-study
 - ▶ Prepare self-study report
 - ▶ Prepare physical and electronic resource rooms
 - ▶ Plan visit
- 

THE SCHEDULE . . . 2010

- Seek and appoint self-study coordinator
- Attend HLC annual meeting April 9-13
- Attend all-day session on self-study Saturday, April 10
 - SMSU is in the PEAQ program: Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality
- Attend PEAQ self-study fair, Saturday a.m.
- Attend concurrent sessions, Saturday-Tuesday a.m.

THE SCHEDULE . . . 2010-11

- Allot time to read Handbook of Accreditation
- Begin Steering Committee meetings
- Review accreditation process
- Review HLC criteria for accreditation
- Review self-study requirements
- Establish goals of self-study
- Link self-study with other endeavors, e.g., implementation of the LAC, assessment, campus master plan, etc.
- Establish timelines for completion of process

2010-11, cont'd . . .

- Steering Committee meetings to design self-study process
 - Appropriate subcommittees appointed (as needed)
- Coordinate with Committee for Institutional Assessment, LAC Oversight Board, etc.

THE SCHEDULE . . . 2011-12

- Establish audiences for self-study
- Create self-study design
- Prepare outline
- Conduct self-study using various techniques
 - Questionnaires
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Interviews
 - Program reviews
 - Consultation with departments/programs
 - And more

2011-12, cont'd . . .

- Collect and organize information
- Collect and analyze appropriate data

THE SCHEDULE . . . 2012-13

- Draft self-study chapters
- Focus on assessment: closing the loop
- Update information as needed
- Review, revise, rewrite, review
- Provide access to campus community

THE SCHEDULE . . . 2013-14

- Final update, proofreading, cover design, formatting
- Report sent to printer
 - Allow at least 1 month for printing, proofing, etc
- At least 8 weeks in advance of visit: self-study, last 2 annual audits, catalog, handbooks mailed to HLC team members and HLC office
- Plan the visit

THE 5 HLC CRITERIA . . .

- ▶ Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity
 - The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, and students.

- Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future
 - The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

THE CRITERIA, cont'd . . .

- ▶ Criterion 3: Student Learning and Effective Teaching
 - The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.
- Criterion 4: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
 - The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

THE CRITERIA, cont'd . . .

- ▶ Criterion 5 Engagement and Service
 - As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

What HLC Will Look For . . .

- ▶ Implementation of the LAC
- ▶ Assessment, assessment, assessment!
- ▶ Closing the assessment loop
- ▶ Focus on student learning outcomes
- ▶ Evidence of continuous improvement
- Most important:
 - Implementation of LAC, assessment plans, closing the loop
 - Integration of LAC outcomes into all aspects of University operations and planning

So . . . What's next?

- Appointment of self-study coordinator
- Appointment of Steering Committee
- Coordination of Steering Committee w/other committees (LAC, CIA, e.g.)
- Attendance at HLC meeting in April
- Continue work on the LAC

- ▶ Creating a worthwhile self-study and report is everybody's job!!

THE QUESTIONS:

- ▶ How does your work connect to the student learning outcomes?
- ▶ What are some of the ways you and your colleagues can promote achievement of the outcomes?