

Tuesday Tidbits

Linda Duttlinger

1-20-09

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a process provided by an off campus organization that evaluates the institution by a set of known criteria and verifies that the institution meets the standards of that organization. There are two kinds of accreditation that apply to PNC.

The first is called regional accreditation. There are six regional agencies that accredit educational institutions. We belong to the North Central Association (NCA). The NCA is split into two commissions. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is established for institutions of higher education and the Commission for Schools is for the P - 12 schools. The main office for the NCA is located in Chicago. Usually we refer to our regional accrediting agency as the HLC.

The second form of accreditation is for specific academic programs. On our campus we are members of the

Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) that accredits our business program;

National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, (usually referred to as NLN) that accredits our Nursing programs;

National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Educators (NCATE), that accredits our Elementary Education program;

Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) that accredits some of our technology programs.

Why does PNC need to be accredited by the HLC?

There are three reasons an institution of higher education needs to be accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

1. Students that transfer to another institution will find that our academic credits are transferable if we are accredited.

2. Students that graduate will be able to get into grad school at other institutions is we are accredited.

3. Students are eligible to receive federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Stafford Loans if our institution is accredited. The federal government requires regional accreditation in order for the students of that institution to be eligible for financial aid.

Are we currently accredited by the HLC?

Yes! Purdue North Central has been accredited by the HLC since the early 1970's and is in good standing with the organization. We will be having a routine, comprehensive visit to review our progress and ensure that we are meeting their criteria.

When is our next visit from the HLC?

Thought you'd never ask!

Our next visit is on April 18, 2011.

815 days from today - January 20, 2009

It's the neatest thing you've ever seen
When PNC shines in 815!

Tuesday Tidbits is a way to provide information about the upcoming accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission to the Purdue North Central Campus. Since the visiting team is interested in ALL aspects of the campus and its operation, this is being sent to all employees.

If you have any questions about the accreditation process, or ideas for future Tidbits, please let me know.

Thanks!

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