



# Chancellor's Forum

James B. Dworkin, Chancellor  
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# What Does Accreditation Tell a Student About an Institution?

- o An accrediting agency looks at a school's mission - a statement of what the school seeks to teach its students and its philosophy - and evaluates the school's facilities, faculty, and resources to determine if the school is qualified to fulfill its mission.
- o Accrediting agencies also take into account what they call "student outcomes." What is the graduation rate at the school? What do the school's students do when they graduate? Do they get jobs or go on to other higher academic programs? All these factors play into an accrediting agency's judgment of a school.
- o Knowing the accreditation status of a school can tell you something about the school's character. The granting of accreditation also tells you something about a school's financial status, for it is imperative that a school be financially sound to provide the education that its mission statement implies. (You wouldn't want to be paying tuition to a school that is going to go bankrupt, would you?)
- o Any school you are interested in should gladly provide you with its accreditation information. Remember: It takes a large amount of time and resources for a school to secure accreditation, and the school should be happy to provide information about it to you.

# Other Benefits of Accreditation for Students

- Another reason for accreditation is to facilitate the transfer of credits between schools. This is an especially important consideration for students who may begin their studies at one school and wish to move to another. Two accredited schools are more likely to accept transfer credits from each other.
- However, just because both institutions involved are accredited does not mean that you will automatically be able to transfer credits. That decision is still at the discretion of the schools involved and may involve other factors such as your GPA or duration and content of the coursework.
- Accreditation also serves another larger purpose: to engender confidence in the business community and the public at large in the higher education institutions that educate and train students. When someone looking for a job says, "I graduated from..." it has to mean something to the business community. Accreditation is a way of building public confidence that graduating students have studied at reputable institutions.

# Two Kinds of Accreditation

- Institutional Accreditation
- Specialized or Discipline Specific Accreditation

# What is the HLC?

- o North Central Association
  - o Higher Learning Commission
  - o Commission on Schools
- o Regional Accrediting Association
  - o 19 states
  - o 1100+ institutions
  - o Public, Private, Not for Profit, Private for Profit
  - o Research I, Tribal Colleges, Community Colleges, Residential, Commuter and ...Virtual

# PNC Discipline/Specialized Accreditation

- o **NLNAC** – National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
- o **ABET** – Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology
- o **ACBSP** – Association of Collegiate Business Schools & Programs
- o **NCATE** – National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education
- o **CSWE** (Council on Social Work Education) - NEW

# Congratulations to the PNC Nursing Department!!

- o NLNAC Visitation Team praised our nursing department and program.
  - o Excellent faculty involved in this degree.
  - o Complimented the caring nature of our faculty as they work with students.
  - o Will recommend eight year reaccreditation of our program.
- o Thanks to Mario Ortiz, Diane Spoljoric and the rest of the Nursing Department for their hard work and dedication to our nursing programs.

# PNC Dates of Accreditation

- o 1971 – Initial PNC accreditation visit
- o 1974
- o 1981
- o 1986
- o 1994 – PNC had to appeal team's report
- o 2001
- o 2003 – Focused Visit
- o 2011

# PNC Self-Study (currently being reviewed by HLC Consultant)

- o INTRODUCTION
- o CHALLENGE CHAPTER
- o CRITERIA ONE
- o CRITERIA TWO
- o CRITERIA THREE
- o CRITERIA FOUR
- o CRITERIA FIVE
- o CHANGE REQUESTS
  - o *ONLINE DEGREE OFFERING*
  - o *BACHELOR TO MASTER*

# HLC Criterion

- o **Criterion 1:** *The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff and students.*
- o **Criterion 2:** *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.*
- o **Criterion 3:** *The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.*
- o **Criterion 4:** *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.*
- o **Criterion 5:** *As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.*

# Typical Visit (and ours!)

- o Team Arrives on Sunday, April 17, 2011 – opportunity for members of the team to become acquainted and map their strategy
- o Team Meets with the Chancellor
  - o Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19

# Open Meetings

ALWAYS HAVE...	USUALLY HAVE...
Faculty	Part-time Faculty
Admin/Prof Staff	Clerical & Service Staff
Students	Community
	Faculty Governance

# Specific Meetings with Members of the Team

- o All Vice Chancellors
- o Financial Aid
- o Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Business & Budget
- o Academic Advisors
- o Faculty Senate Chair
- o Gen Educ Committee
- o Assessment Committee
- o Diversity – Human Resources
- o Registration
- o Asst. Vice Chancellor & Dean of Students
- o Activities & Campus Life
- o Student Government
- o Public Safety Office

# Change in Status of Affiliation

- o Graduate Level Change
  - o MBA
  - o Campus Graduate Council
- o Online Change
  - o Nursing Degree

# Team Will Visit:

- o All parts of PNC campus – clean up your office!
- o PNC-Porter County
- o Westville Correctional Facility
- o Lakeside Correctional Facility

# Wednesday, April 20, 2011

- o Team Chair visits with Chancellor
- o Exit Meeting Held - Team & Chancellor's Audience
  - o No discussion
  - o Team tells us their recommendations to the HLC (hopefully reaccreditation for ten years)

# Draft Team Report

- o Draft report received within a few weeks of the visit.
- o We get to correct errors in fact only.

# Final Report

- o Campus may appeal findings or agree to accept recommendations by the team.
  - o PNC did appeal findings of an earlier accreditation team and won.
- o HLC Board of Trustees meets in December of 2011 to give final approval to the team's recommendations.

# Important Things to Do to Be Ready for Team Visit

- o Read final self-study in preparation of HLC team visit.
- o Read all announcements about the upcoming visit as they are circulated.
- o Attend all of the pertinent meetings once the team is on campus.

**QUESTIONS ??**