

Lawrence Technological University

Accreditation Matters VOL. VI - January 2010

HLC Criterion 5 of 5 Engagement and Service:

As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

5a. The organization learns from the constituencies it serves and analyzes its capacity to serve their needs and expectations.

5b. The organization has the capacity and the commitment to engage with its identified constituencies and communities.

5c. The organization demonstrates its responsiveness to those constituencies that depend on it for service.

5d. Internal and external constituencies value the services the organization provides.

What Everyone Should Know:

- HLC Accreditation Criterion Five
- Lawrence Tech's Assessment Initiative
- Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/descriptions/community_engagement.php

Purpose of this Newsletter

This newsletter informs the campus community about Lawrence Tech's upcoming institutional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, scheduled to begin October 18, 2010. The institutional self-study, which helps us prepare for the accreditation visit, is an extensive process of self-study and reflection. This newsletter – which will be issued in January, May, and September of each year leading up to the 2010 accreditation visit – provides information to the campus community about the accreditation process, the activities across the institution in support of the process, and about how you can contribute to the process.

Lawrence Tech's Engagement with the Community

Criterion 5 addresses how Lawrence Tech engages with the broader community. This includes not only why and how the University provides services to the community, but how the University learns from these experiences. Furthermore, the University must demonstrate that it builds the capacity and maintains the institutional commitment to sustain and extend its community engagement activities over time. Criterion 5 was adopted by the Higher Learning Commission in 2003, so this criterion was not incorporated into Lawrence Tech's 2001 accreditation self-study and site visit.

Community engagement can take many forms, including initiatives such as the AmeriCorps program, student involvement in the College of Architecture & Design's Detroit Studio, the College of Management's Grinnell Internship Project through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management, and faculty involvement in the Ferndale University High School program.

The extent of Lawrence Tech's community engagement was recognized in 2009 when the University received the new "Community Engagement Classification" from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The Community Engagement Classification is a recent addition to the Carnegie classification system for U.S. colleges and universities. Universities apply by submitting required documentation describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community. This approach enables Carnegie to address elements of institutional mission that are not represented in the national data on colleges and universities.

Lawrence Tech is one of nine universities in Michigan - and only 119 nationwide - to receive the Carnegie designation in 2008 for both curricular engagement and outreach and partnerships. It is the only technological university in Michigan to earn that distinction.

Beginning with the class of 2011 - the entering class in 2007 - comprehensive leadership experiences strengthen each undergraduate program during all four years of college. Students practice what they have learned about leadership in the classroom by volunteering and leading projects for community and civic organizations. With the exception of the three military academies, no other American college offered such a comprehensive approach to leadership education for all students when Lawrence Tech launched its leadership curriculum in 2007.

Lawrence Tech's extensive community outreach programs – both curricular and co-curricular – and its Carnegie Community Engagement Classification directly responds to the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation criterion 5, which calls on the University to “[identify] its constituencies and serve them in ways both value.”

Self-Study Timeline

The Self-Study Steering Committee meets every two weeks during the academic year to lead the self-study effort. Here is a review of the timeline used by the Committee:

2008-2009

- Self-Study Data Design and Evidence Gathering plan
- Interviews with Vice Presidents, Deans, and Administrative Offices
- Campus Briefings

2009-2010

- Self-Study Detailed Data Gathering
- Report Writing

2010-2011

- Report Publication (August 2010)
- Higher Learning Commission Site Visit (October 19-20, 2010)

Self-Study Principles

As the Self-Study Steering Committee develops the self-study project plan, members will focus on these priorities:

1. To gather evidence of the alignment of Lawrence Tech's mission with institutional and educational outcomes.
2. To gather evidence that Lawrence Tech is organized, governed, and resourced to sustain its mission into the future.
3. To gather evidence that demonstrates linkages between long-term initiatives, student learning outcomes, and operations.
4. To prepare a self-study which demonstrates linkages between long-term initiatives, student learning outcomes, and operations.
5. To actively engage the entire Lawrence Tech community in the accreditation process, and to learn from the self-study process.

Self-Study Steering Committee:

Lawrence Tech has established a Self-Study Steering Committee to prepare our self-study report that will be sent to the members of the visiting team and to the HLC in October 2010. The self-study report is very comprehensive and is critical to give to the team a real picture of who we are and of our vision for the future. The members of the Self-Study Steering Committee are:

Dr. Patty Castelli

College of Management

Prof. Lew Frasch

College of Engineering

Dr. Dale Gyure

College of Architecture & Design

Dr. Steve Howell

Associate Provost and
Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Alan McCord

College of Management
eLearning Services
Steering Committee Chair

Dr. Valentina Tobos

College of Arts & Sciences