

University of Central Arkansas

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) notes that “‘Accreditation’ is the primary means of assuring and improving the quality of higher education institutions and programs in the United States.”¹ UCA’s institutional accreditor is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The HLC evaluates and monitors its member institutions through comprehensive evaluations (typically every ten years), focused evaluations (as occasioned by institutional change), and a variety of reports, ranging from annual data updates to issue-specific reports as required. UCA’s last comprehensive evaluation took place in April 2000. The next comprehensive evaluation visit is scheduled for March 8–10, 2010. Between now and the visit in 2010, UCA’s HLC2010 Self-Study Steering Committee will publish this monthly update for the campus.



On Our Plates

Editing task force reports continues – it’s a painstaking process, slower than we’d like, but we are still on schedule. President Meadors met with the SSSC on August 12 (see below).

Link to the self-study schedule: <http://www.uca.edu/panda/hlc2010/#timeline>

Focus on Leadership and Collaborative Processes

As common sense suggests, university accreditation means most and is most effective when it involves the entire institutional community with leadership from its president. Recently UCA’s President Allen Meadors spent time with the Self-Study Steering Committee to share his experiences of and commitment to the accreditation process and its importance.

In his meeting with the Steering Committee, President Meadors affirmed his commitment to effective leadership and his support of collaborative processes. In the self-study context, the President’s commitments are particularly relevant to the Higher Learning Commission’s emphasis on clarity of mission and integrity in its implementation. The President’s commitments to effective organizational governance and administrative structures and to the value of shared governance reiterate the University’s intention to hew to the principles underlying Criterion 1, Mission & Integrity. (See Criterion 1, Core Component 1d.) The Steering Committee also discussed with President Meadors his commitment to strategic planning on all levels. In the self-study context, this commitment is particularly important in relation to Criterion 2, Preparing for the Future. The “all levels” approach to planning is key as the university seeks to assure its ability to provide the best higher education experience possible for its students. (See Criterion 2, Core Component 2d.) Link to . . .

- :: Criterion 1: <http://www.uca.edu/panda/hlc2010/criterion1.html>
- :: Criterion 2: <http://www.uca.edu/panda/hlc2010/criterion2.html>

Accreditation Resource Links

UCA – University of Central Arkansas

- :: HLC2010: <http://www.uca.edu/panda/hlc2010/>
- :: Accreditors: <http://www.uca.edu/ubulletin/01/103.html> (link to the *Undergraduate Bulletin*)
- :: Strategic Framework: http://www.uca.edu/panda/sti/uca_strategic_framework.pdf (see especially UCA’s Mission and Principles)

HLC – Higher Learning Commission

- :: Home: <http://www.ncahlc.org/>
- :: Overview of Accreditation: http://www.ncahlc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=111
- :: Directory of Affiliated Institutions: http://www.ncahlc.org/index.php?option=com_directory&Itemid=192

CHEA – Council for Higher Education Accreditation

- :: Home: <http://www.chea.org/>
- :: Informing the Public about Accreditation: http://www.chea.org/public_info/

¹ Council for Higher Education Accreditation, “Talking Points: Accreditation, Students and Society.” February 2009. Online at http://chea.org/pdf/2009_Talking_Points.pdf.