

University of Central Arkansas

According to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), “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 dictated 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.



On Our Plates

With the self-study submitted on January 13, the Self-Study Steering Committee (SSSC) has turned its attention to preparing the HLC2010 Resource Room (Wingo 211) for the visit to take place March 8–10. Three kinds of resources comprise the Resource Room’s library: (1) documentation/evidence developed in preparing the Task Force reports, (2) resources identified in the self-study, and (3) other materials prescribed by the HLC. Physical documents will be supplemented by digital documents stored in the Resource Room or provided by link to publicly available resources on web or file servers. A summary list of Resource Room holdings will be available mid-February.

Focus on HLC2010 Materials and Campus Briefings

The SSSC has made several new documents/versions of documents available in the HLC2010 channel on **myUCA** (see the next page of this update for information about how to subscribe to the channel if you have not done so already):

- :: Self Study: Final Documents
- :: Summary of Self-Study Conclusions, Part III
- :: Institutional Snapshot

The SSSC will present three campus briefings about the HLC2010 process and the March 8–10 visit of the HLC’s panel of consultant-evaluators, scheduled as follows:

- :: February 1, SGA Briefing; location: SGA meeting room, Student Center; time: regular SGA meeting time
- :: ~~February 11~~, Open Campus Briefing; location: Board Room, Wingo Hall; time: x-period **Rescheduled: February 18**
- :: February 23, Open Campus Briefing; location: Board Room, Wingo Hall; time: x-period

We hope that you will plan to attend an HLC2010 briefing. Each will begin with a short presentation followed by time for questions and answers.

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.

HLC2010 Channel: How to Subscribe

- (1) Sign in to the web portal (**myUCA**) at <http://my.uca.edu>.
- (2) Select the **Content/Layout** link (upper left-hand corner near the portal logo).
- (3) Select the **Tab** on which you wish to display the HLC2010 channel.
- (4) Decide where on the selected tab you wish to display the HLC2010 channel and click the corresponding **Add Channel** button.
- (5) A category drop-down list ("Select a Category") will be displayed. Select **Administrative**, and click **Go**.
- (6) A list of available channels will be displayed. In the list, select **HLC2010**, and click the **Add Channel** button.
- (7) You will be returned to the Manage Content/Layout page. Select the **back to** link (upper left-hand corner near the portal logo).
- (8) The newly subscribed HLC2010 channel should appear on the tab you chose.

If you have trouble subscribing, contact the Helpdesk by phone at 450-3107 or by email at helpdesk@uca.edu.