

WABASH COLLEGE
ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2011

The Criteria for Accreditation

We are currently preparing for a site visit from the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC) on October 8-10, 2012. During the visit, the team of reviewers will meet with faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and students to evaluate our self-study of adherence to the [five criteria for accreditation](#).

Criterion One: Mission and Integrity

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.

Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future

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.

Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

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.

Criterion Five: Engagement and Service

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

The NCA-HLC website suggests that each criterion will have three elements:

The **Criteria Statements** define the necessary qualities of an organization that is accredited by the Commission. These criteria were developed and voted on by the member institutions. Sanctions (ranging from additional monitoring reports to loss of accreditation status) may be given if an affiliated institution either does not meet or is in jeopardy of not meeting one or more of the Criteria.

The **Core Components** are the standards used to evaluate the evidence of meeting a criterion. Each criterion has four of five core components and the College must provide evidence for how we fulfill each of these components.

The **Examples of Evidence** provide specific types of evidence that an institution might use in demonstrating that they meet the core components. We may provide other evidence besides what is listed in the Examples of Evidence, and some of the examples of evidence may not be relevant to our institution.

The Criteria Statements, Core Components, and Examples of Evidence are more fully described in [Chapter 3](#) of the *Handbook for Accreditation*.

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns we invite you to contact a member of the Accreditation Committee: [Bobby Horton](#), [John Lamborn](#), [Todd McDorman](#), [Julie Olsen](#) and [Ann Taylor](#).