

**Today's HLC Fact:**  
**"HLC Assurance Argument: Criterion 1 on Mission"**  
**(with specific emphasis on 1C: mission and diversity)**  
(August 15, 2017)

Core Component 1C in HLC's Criteria for Accreditation reads as follows:

*The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.*

1. *The institution addresses its role in a multicultural society.*
2. *The institution's processes and activities reflect attention to human diversity as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.*

In our Assurance Argument being prepared for HLC and in support of the above statements, we include the following narrative:

*Institutional Language.* Public language is very important when an institution is addressing human diversity and its role in a multicultural society. In that regard, these statements are critical in Lindenwood's setting a proper tone in its commitment to diversity:

1. [Mission Statement:](#)

Lindenwood University's mission statement includes the statement, "...development of the whole person—an educated, responsible citizen of a global community," acknowledging the importance of diversity.

2. [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Statement:](#)

This DEI statement makes clear that university policies are designed so that all stakeholders are treated with respect, dignity, fairness, and inclusiveness. The statement further makes clear that the university strives to provide a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for all students, employees, and visitors.

3. [Notice of Nondiscrimination Statement:](#)

The Notice of Nondiscrimination indicates that "Lindenwood University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination" that "extends to its admissions, employment, activities, treatment, educational programs, and services."

4. [Employee Code of Ethics:](#)

Lindenwood's Employee Code of Ethics includes the expectation that employees are to respect the dignity of each human being. No one is to be "belittled, slighted, ridiculed, persecuted, alienated, or discriminated against in any other way based on race, disability, color, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or political view."

5. [Board Code of Ethics:](#)

Also noteworthy is the fact that the Board Code of Ethics includes nondiscrimination language ensuring "the right of all LU students, faculty, and staff to appropriate and effective services without discrimination."

6. [Premises and Guidelines:](#)

In its Premises and Guidelines, the Board of Directors includes these statements relating to diversity: "We will continue to be values-based, student-oriented, and committed to diversity" and "We will be diligent in maintaining a level of approximately 15% international student component in our resident student body."

Click on the above links to learn more about these statements.

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood's comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts are archived [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Wilson, Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness, at [DWilson@lindenwood.edu](mailto:DWilson@lindenwood.edu) or x4737.