

HLC Fact of the Day:
“HLC Assurance Argument: Criterion 4”
(with specific emphasis on 4C – retention, persistence, completion)
(August 22, 2017)

HLC’s Core Component 4C reads as follows: *The institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs.*

More specifically, 4C1 says: *The institution has defined goals for student retention, persistence, and completion that are ambitious but attainable and appropriate to its mission, student populations, and educational offerings.*

In our Assurance Argument being prepared for HLC and in response to the above standard (4C1), we say the following:

At the President’s Retention Retreat held in February 2016, administrators and deans used [IPEDS data](#) from Lindenwood and a number of peer institution groups to assess Lindenwood’s retention and completion performance. Lindenwood’s data for the Fall 2013 FTFT freshmen cohort, when compared to a key peer group, "competitor schools", revealed [lower performance](#).

In response, the group established the following ambitious but realistic system goals for 2027, the bicentennial of Lindenwood's founding:

- Freshman to sophomore retention: 80%
- 4-year graduation rate: 43%
- 6-year graduation rate: 61%

Each goal requires a minimum of 1% growth per year. The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate for the 2015 cohort stands at 70%. The most recent 4-year graduation rate is 33%, while the 5-year graduation rate is 47%, and the 6-year graduation rate is 49% (respectively, the 2012, 2011, and 2010 cohorts).

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](#).

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