

HLC Fact of the Week:
“Lindenwood is on HLC’s Standard Pathway”
(April 21, 2017)

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) now has three pathways for reaffirmation of accreditation: Standard, AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program), and Open. Lindenwood is on the [Standard Pathway](#). Here’s how the Standard Pathway works:

- We operate on a 10-year cycle.
- Year 1 of our 10-year cycle was 2014-15, the year following our last HLC comprehensive evaluation and visit.
- Year 4, which for us is 2017-18, involves a comprehensive evaluation (with visit). The comprehensive evaluation in the Standard Pathway consists of an Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File) and a Federal Compliance Filing. The evaluation also includes a multi-campus review, which for Lindenwood, means HLC will review and visit both the St. Charles campus and the Belleville campus. The only action HLC takes in response to a Year 4 evaluation is a determination as to whether any follow-up monitoring is necessary.
- Year 10, which for us is 2023-24, again involves a comprehensive evaluation (with visit). Year 10, unlike Year 4, includes HLC action regarding reaffirmation of accreditation. Action on the Year 10 review will also determine our future pathway eligibility.
- At any point during the 10-year cycle, HLC can require interim monitoring reports or special visits. For example, following our October, 2013 HLC visit, we were required to file an interim report on staffing by July 1, 2015. We are also required to include a monitoring report on assessment of student learning as part of the Assurance Argument that we will be submitting to HLC in conjunction with our November, 2017 comprehensive evaluation.

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 of the Week are archived [here](#).

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