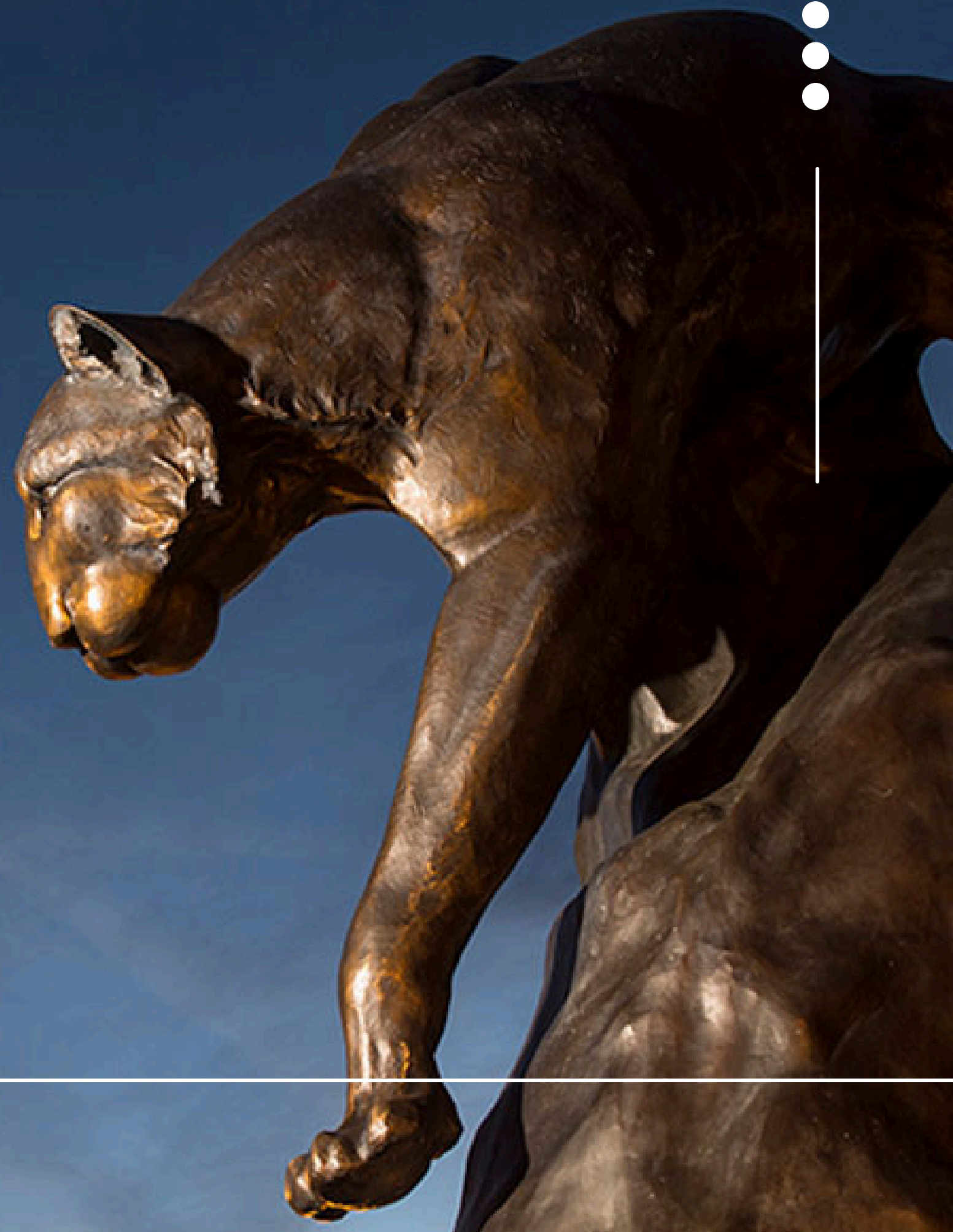


# Higher Learning Commission: Comprehensive Review

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Presented By : Elza Ibroscheva



# What is HLC



Higher Learning  
Commission<sup>SM</sup>

**The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** is an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The accreditation process evaluates a college or university as a whole, including its: mission, educational offerings, governance, operations, and finances.

# Why does it matter?

1. **Quality assurance** – Reaccreditation verifies that SIUE meets rigorous standards of quality.
2. **Continuous improvement** – Encourages SIUE to assess its strengths and areas needing attention. This commitment benefits students and alums, as well as faculty and staff.
3. **Value of your degree** – Employers value degrees from accredited institutions because this designation signals that graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary for their chosen field.
4. **Financial aid** – Securing reaccreditation is essential for SIUE, as the U.S. Dept of Education recognizes it as a marker that allows institutions to be eligible to disperse federal student financial aid.
5. **Pride** – SIUE's reaccreditation is a collective point of pride for students, alums, faculty, and staff.



# Recent SIUE HLC Cycle



2008: Reaffirmation of Accreditation

2015: Quality Checkup: Continued Accreditation

2019: Assurance Review: Approved

2021: Quality Initiative Proposal: Approved

2024: Quality Initiative Report: Approved

**2025: Comprehensive Evaluation Visit: March 31-April 1, 2025**

# HLC Criteria

## Criterion 1: Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

## Criterion 2: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

## Criterion 3 : Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

The institution provides quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

## Criterion 4: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

## Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

The institution's resources, structures, processes and planning are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.



# Assurance Review



- As part of the Assurance Review, the institution submits an **Assurance Argument**, along with **evidence** (called an Evidence File), to demonstrate that it is in compliance with HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.
- The team of peer reviewers conducting the comprehensive evaluation reviews these materials ahead of time in preparation for the on-site visit.

# Federal Compliance Review



- Institutions must submit a **Federal Compliance Filing** demonstrating that they are complying with the expectations of specific regulations set by the U.S. Department of Education. HLC is required to conduct this review as a federally recognized accrediting agency.

# Compliance with Assumed Practices



- Institutions must be ready to demonstrate how they meet compliance with **Assumed Practices** in the following areas:
  - Conflict of interest
  - Ethics
  - Policies and procedures
  - Complaints
  - Data accuracy
  - Faculty qualifications
  - Credit awarded for prior learning
  - General education



# Student Opinion Survey



- HLC conducts an **online survey** of the institution's student body two months prior to the on-site peer review visit. The survey is intended to give students an opportunity to participate in the evaluation process, and to help identify questions for the peer reviewers to ask while on site.

# On-site Peer Review Visit



- On-site visits occur after the peer review team has reviewed the institutional report and student survey results.
- The team works with the institution to create the agenda for the visit, which typically includes meetings with the institution's leadership and board, as well as open forums with faculty, staff and students.
- Visits typically last 1 1/2 days. The team will remain in the area for an additional day of deliberations after the visit.

# Communication plan



- **Regular communication** and updates sent by ALO (Associate Provost Ibroscheva)
- A dedicated **HLC visit website** with resources, details and preparation materials
- **Blackboard Organizational site** to house Assurance Argument, HLC Resources, etc.
- **Visit** with Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Senate, Chancellor's Council, Academic Affairs Council
- A **designated email address** for questions and feedback
- **Information Sessions** for each criterion
- **Social media** campaign
- **“Get Ready” Sessions** closer to the visit

# How can you help?

- Highlight academic experiences
- Participate in meetings the open forum
- Provide Honest and Constructive feedback
- By actively participating and presenting a well-rounded and honest view of the student experience, you can significantly contribute to a positive and successful accreditation visit
- Demonstrate school pride
- Tell your **Cougar Story!**

HLC READY

**SIUE**

**PROUD**



# HLCReady

# EddielsReady

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

