Outline

• Introduction to accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA)
• The criteria and process for accreditation
• Planning the UC Denver Self Study
  • Timeline
  • Process
Purpose of Institutional Accreditation:

- Voluntary
- Evaluates the institution as a whole
- Different from specialized accreditation that evaluates particular units, schools or programs (LCME etc)
- Verifying that institutions meet standards established by their peers
- Promoting institutional self knowledge and advancement
- Providing assurances to the public about quality
Accreditation History of UCD and UCHSC

From 1913 – 1970 accredited as part of UC Boulder

First accredited independently in 1970 UCD and 1980 UCHSC

Ten-year cycle for reaccreditation

Previously Accredited in 1998 (UCHSC); 2001 (UCD); and consolidation focus visit in 2005

Scheduled for HLC site visit April 4-6 2011
Regional Institutional Accrediting Agencies

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Association: (Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) > 1,000 of 3,500 nationally
The North Central Association (www.ncahlc.org) is:

An organization of colleges and schools in 19 states

Consists of two independent accrediting corporations

- The Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement - K-12
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) - degree granting organizations of higher education

Mission of the HLC:

“Serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher education”
Recent Fundamental Shifts at the HLC

Inputs ➔ Outcomes

Teaching ➔ Learning

Focus on Past ➔ Focus on Future

Autonomy ➔ Connectedness
HLC Criteria for Accreditation

1. Mission and Integrity
2. Preparing for the Future
3. Student Learning and Effective Teaching
4. Acquisition, Discovery, Application of Knowledge
5. Engagement and Service
All Criteria:

Interconnected and tied to institution’s mission

Focus on learning

Encourage forward thinking about outcomes

Solicit evaluative and conversational engagement

Have organized, thematic implications

Future-oriented, learning focused, distinctive
The Self Study Process:

More than just an exercise for accreditation

Builds on existing processes and assessment practices

Allows for honest campus introspection

Evaluates, with evidence:

- where the institution has been,
- where it is,
- where it expects to be in the future
Analytical Components of Self Study

Is the institute:

Future oriented?
Connected?
Distinctive?
Focused on learning?

Key Strengths
Major Challenges
Next Steps
Planning of the Self Study Process:

Began with the UPAC group that worked on strategic planning March 2007 - January 2008

Writing the self study 2009 - 2010

Preparing for the visit

Site visit April 4-6, 2011
Composition of the Current Working Groups:

5 distinct groups each formed around the HLC review criteria

10 – 14 members each; 51 total (administrators; faculty & staff)

Meeting weekly or bi-weekly throughout Spring 2009 semester

Complete their initial date gathering/analysis by May 15 2009
Tentative Timeline

Spring 2009 – Working groups collect data
Summer 2009 – (Descriptive) First Draft written
Fall 2009 – Feedback on First Draft
Winter – Spring 2010 - (Analytical) Second Draft written
Spring 2010 – Feedback on Second Draft
Summer 2010 – Prepare “Self Study”
Fall 2010 – Feedback on Self Study
Winter 2010/11 – Prepare for Site Visit
How can you be involved?

Provide information to working groups (website to be created soon!!)

Read and critique the Self Study

Help educate the campus community

Participate in the HLC Site Team visit