



Accreditation 2010

Indiana State Kicks Off Self-Study

Fast Facts

- Last accreditation visit was in 2000
- Used the strategic planning process as an alternative to a traditional self-study
- ISU was found to “demonstrate exemplary compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and the General Institutional Requirements”
- NCA challenged ISU to address the reallocation of resources from low enrollment programs to provide additional support for the accomplishment of the many priority goals identified by the University in the 2000 report

Although a great deal of planning and coordination occurred prior to the official kick-off of the NCA reaccreditation project, the first formal meeting of the project’s Leadership Group was held on October 10. That meeting signaled the official beginning of what will be a multi-year project designed to present Indiana State University to the North Central Association’s Higher Learning Commission a comprehensive report of our mission, programs, supports, and operations. Not only does the reaccreditation process require us to report “who we are” as an institution, we will be required to provide evidence as to how well and to what degree we perform in the holistic support of our mission and to student learning in general.

The Leadership Team, Steering Committee, and Criterion-Focused Committees have broad representation from the campus community’s various constituencies, including faculty, staff, administration, students, as well as each of the University’s divisions.

This newsletter presents a wealth of information, designed to acquaint the University community with the accreditation process and as an information conduit to assure transparency in the reaccreditation self-study. In the months to come, there will be ample opportunity for all members of the ISU community to take an active part in the process, from the development of new mission and values statements to the discovery and reporting of examples of evi-



dence that we, as an institution, meet and exceed the standards of practice in higher education, all designed to assure our students are provided a rich and full educational experience.

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Revised Mission Statement Development

The ISU Board of Trustees has directed that a revised mission statement be developed. In response to that directive, the institution is engaging in a multi-step plan to meet that directive.

Preliminary work has been completed in the construction of a draft mission statement. That draft is now being presented to the campus community through a variety of venues to solicit

input, including its current posting on the reaccreditation website with an interactive form where readers can anonymously comment, reviews by various units of governance, hosting open forums on December 4th and 5th in Dede III, and finally, a meeting of constituent representatives during a retreat scheduled to be held in January.

The goal of the project is to

assure the board receives a final recommendation that has been developed with input from the entire campus community.

Self-Study Leadership & Organization

NCA SELF-STUDY Organizational Chart



Overview of Accreditation Criteria

Each criterion has three elements:

- *Criterion Statement*
- *Core Components*
- *Examples of Evidence*

The Criteria for Accreditation are organized under five major headings. Each Criterion has three elements: Criterion Statement, Core Components, and Examples of Evidence.

The **Criteria Statements** define necessary attributes of an organization accredited by the Commission. An organization must be judged to have met each of the Criteria to merit accreditation. An organization

addresses each **Core Component** as it presents reasonable and representative evidence of meeting a Criterion. The **Examples of Evidence** illustrate the types of evidence an organization might present in addressing a Core Component.

The Criteria are intentionally general so that accreditation decisions focus on the particulars of each organization, rather than on trying to make it fit a

preestablished mold. The widely different purposes and scopes of colleges and universities demand criteria that are broad enough to encompass diversity and support innovation, but clear enough to ensure acceptable quality.

Preliminary Timeline

November 28, 2007	PPARC review of revised mission and NCA reports
December 4-5, 2007	Open forums on mission statements
January 2008	Campus-wide retreat on mission and NCA updates
February 2008	Board reviews mission statement
March 2008	Criterion-focused committee reports due (Phase I)
Summer 2008	Data provided to committees for analysis.
Fall 2008	Committees begin working on the report.
November 2008	Draft committee reports due: online for campus comment
January 2009	Comments are gathered and disseminated back to the committees
March 2009	Final reports from committees due to steering committee
June 2009	Self-study report draft submitted to steering committee: online for campus
September 2009	Self-study final draft due
February 2010	NCA visit to University

*Only 784
more days
until our NCA Visit*

Phase I Process

Phase I committee reports are due to the Board of Trustees on March 1, 2008.

In preparation of completing the reports, each of the five criterion-focused committees have been charged with conducting a review of the avail-

able data, identifying new data that will need to be generated and/or located, identifying areas of current non-compliance along with options for things that can be addressed immediately as well as options for developing plans

for those that cannot be changed in the short term.

Highlights from the NCA 2000 Report

- ISU used the strategic planning process as an alternative to a traditional self-study, in agreement with the NCA
- In the final report, the NCA indicated that ISU demonstrated “exemplary compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and the General Institutional Requirements”
- NCA challenged ISU to address the reallocation of resources from low enrollment programs to provide additional support for the accomplishment of the many priority goals identified by the University in the 2000 report

“Accreditation provides assurance to the public, in particular to prospective students, that Indiana State University has been found to meet the North Central Association’s Higher Learning Commission’s clearly stated requirements and criteria and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will continue to meet them.”

- Adapted from the Higher Learning Commission’s Overview of Institutional Accreditation



President's Charges for Leadership Committee

President Benjamin has charged the Leadership Committee with the following responsibilities:

1. Provide guidance and input on the NCA self-study process and ensure broad participation and transparency of process
2. Advocate for the NCA process and ensure that the entire ISU community is aware and supportive of the self-study effort
3. Review the work of accreditation committees and ensure that the university is meeting all criteria with appropriate documentation
4. Participate in the creation of the university's effort to develop a new mission and participate in advocating for that mission
5. Alert leadership to challenges hindering university's ability to satisfy any of the criteria and present options for overcoming barriers
6. Report to the president periodically on progress toward accreditation
7. Ensure that the final self-study report is endorsed by the campus before the president submits it for approval to the board of trustees

NCA 2010 Steering Committee

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We're on the Web

Want to find out more about the self-study? Want to get involved? Have questions? Want your voice to be heard?

Visit us online at

<http://nca.indstate.edu>



NCA 2010

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OVERVIEW

Indiana State University has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), an independent corporation and one of two Commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), since 1915. Institutions retain their affiliation with NCA by undergoing an accreditation review process not later than 10 years after each subsequent reaffirmation of accreditation. Since the last NCA visit to ISU was conducted in February of 2000, ISU will undergo its next comprehensive visit by NCA in February of 2010.