

A photograph of a university campus featuring a large, multi-tiered stone fountain in the foreground. The fountain is set on a paved area with a circular pattern. In the background, there are lush green trees, a paved walkway, and wooden benches. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# Reaccreditation of Arizona State University with the Higher Learning Commission

**HLC Visit April 24-25, 2023**

# What is accreditation?

In the U.S., institutions of higher education “voluntarily” seek accreditation from non-governmental bodies.

Students obtain federal financial aid only from those higher education institutions accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

# Seven accreditors in the U.S.

1. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
2. Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
3. Middle States Commission on Higher Education
4. New England Association of Schools and Colleges
  - a) Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE)
  - b) Commission on Technical and Career Institutions (NEASC-CTCI)
5. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
6. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges
7. Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges

# ASU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

Accreditation depends on an institution meeting the five criteria

## Criterion 1

Mission

## Criterion 2

Integrity:  
ethical and  
responsible  
conduct

## Criterion 3

Teaching and  
learning:  
quality,  
resources  
and support

## Criterion 4

Teaching and  
learning:  
evaluation  
and  
improvement

## Criterion 5

Institutional  
effectiveness,  
resources  
and planning

# HLC accreditation occurs on a 10-year cycle

ASU was last reaccredited in 2012

## ASU follows the Open Pathway:

- Year 4 review of Assurance Argument (occurred in 2017)
- Additional location visits
- Annual updates
- Quality Initiative: project related to institutional improvement
- Year 10 comprehensive evaluation and visit (includes Assurance Argument and Student Survey)
- Federal Compliance

# Assurance Argument

The Assurance Argument consists of five chapters – one for each criterion.

The goal is to provide an argument, supported by evidence, as to how the institution meets all criteria.

# Quality Initiative

Takes place between Year 5 and Year 9 of the 10-year Open Pathway Cycle. A Quality Initiative project may be designed to begin and be completed during this time, or an institution may continue a project that is already in progress or achieve a key milestone in the work of a longer initiative.

ASU's Quality Initiative is focused on Assessment of General Education – particularly written communication and critical thinking.

# How will the ASU Self-Study effort be organized?

## Steering committee



Andrew Webber



Shelly Potts



Lisa Bortman



Pamela Garrett



Craig Thatcher



Tamara Deuser

## Criterion committees

One committee for each criterion.

One steering committee member per criterion to identify additional members.

## Resource committee

Provides additional conduits for information.

Key members from non-academic units (e.g., Educational Outreach and Student Services, Knowledge Enterprise, Business and Finance, and University Office of Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness).



**For more information:**

<https://provost.asu.edu/hlc>