

# **2013 Accreditation Reaffirmation Update**

**The Higher Learning Commission  
(HLC)**

**of the North Central Association of  
Colleges and Schools (NCA)**

# What is HLC?

- Part of NCA
  - 1 of 6 Regional Accrediting Bodies
  - Required for access to federal financial aid
- 1,000+ Institutions
- 19 States
- About 1,500 Peer Reviewer Corps Volunteers
  - Peer Review Corp Advisory Group (8-10 members)
- 47 Staff

# Current HLC Processes

- PEAQ:  
Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality  
- Assurance and Advancement Reviews
- AQIP:  
Academic Quality Improvement Program  
- Quality Improvement Projects/Checkups
- Other:  
Initiation, Candidacy, etc.



## Recent University of Akron History with HLC

- 1996 (February) Focus Visit – Governance
- 1996 (April) Second Focus Visit – Governance
- 1997 Comprehensive Visit – 5 Year Reaffirmation  
(follow up item – planning and budgeting)
- 2000 Focus Visit – Planning and Budget Allocation
- 2003 Site Visit – 10 Year Reaffirmation  
(follow up items – assessment and governance)

## Recent University of Akron History with HLC

- 2005 Request for Clarification (Wayne College)
- 2007-2011 Assessment Academy
- 2008 Reports and Visits on Governance and First Additional Location (Medina)
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# Our Self-Study (2011 – 2013)

- Vision 2020
- Undergraduate Student Academic Success
- Graduate Student Academic Success

# Steering Committee

- Mike Sherman
- Julie Burdick
- Dap0iJ2u0y ike

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# **New Criteria (Effective January 2013)**

**Criterion One: Mission**

**Criterion Two: Ethical and Responsible Conduct**

**Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning - Quality, Resources, Support**

**Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning - Evaluation and Improvements**

**Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

**Federal Compliance Requirements/Assumed Practices**



# Teams

Criterion One

# Current Timeline

- **Spring 2012**

- Implement Vision 2020

- Implement Pathways to Undergraduate Student Academic Success

- Analyze Graduate Student Academic Success

- Prepare rough drafts of the self-study report sections

- **Summer 2012**

- Compile/vet/edit draft self-study report

- Work with HLC on proposed site-visit team leader and membership

- **Fall 2012**

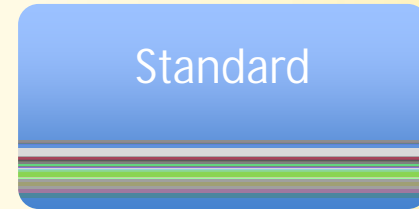
- Finalize self-study report after broad campus input

- Prepare campus for site-visit

# Current Timeline

- **December 2012**
  - Submit complete self-study to HLC
  - Public announcements and 3<sup>rd</sup> party comments
- **Spring 2013**
  - Continue preparing campus for site-visit
- **March 3-6, 2013**
  - Site-visit
  - Board of Trustees members needed
- **Summer 2013**
  - HLC decision on reaffirmation and future processes

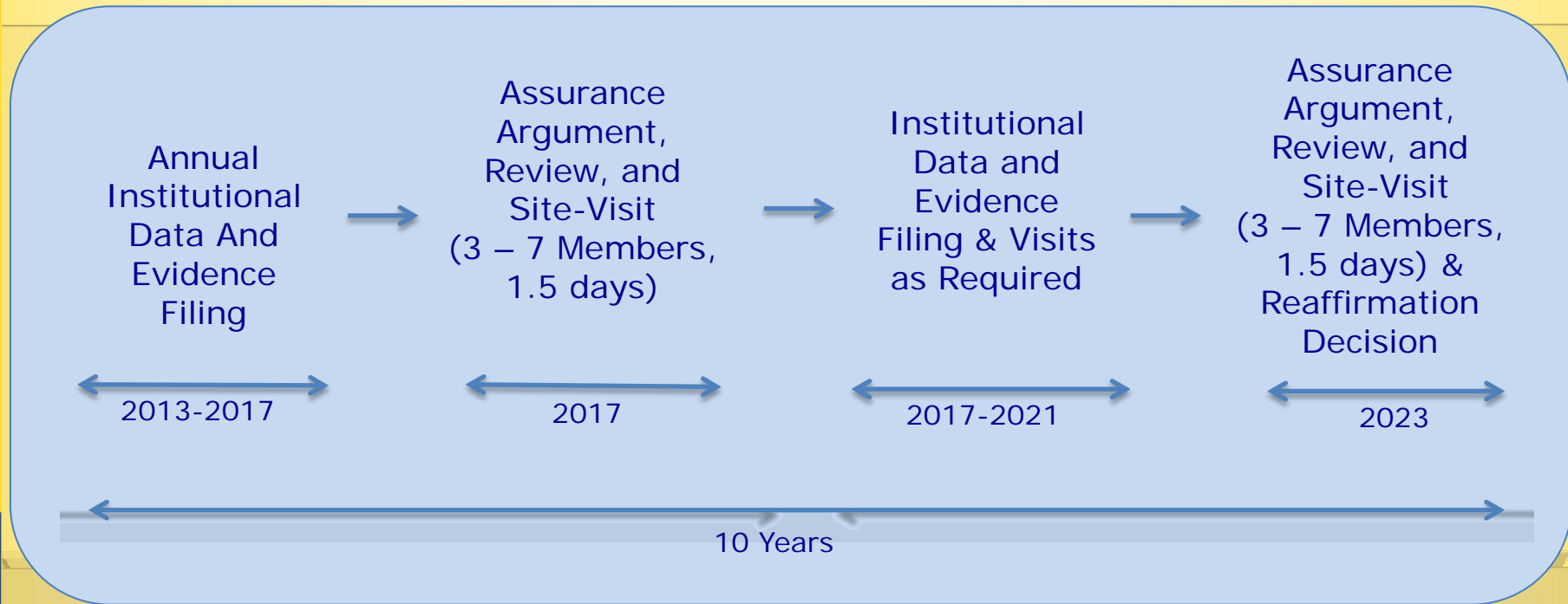
# Future HLC Process



# Standard Pathway Institutions

- History of HLC follow up items  
(e.g. assessment and governance)
- Undergoing dynamic change  
(e.g. Vision 2020 and Undergraduate Student Academic Success)
- Frequent substantive change approvals  
(e.g. additional locations)

# Future HLC Process: The Standard Pathway



**Questions?**