HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

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Harvey Mudd’s WSCUC Timeline

Fall 2009: Capacity and Preparatory Review
Spring 2011: Educational Effectiveness Review
Spring 2016: Interim Report
Spring 2016: Mid-Cycle Review
Spring 2021: Accreditation Visit
Agenda

• 2013 WSCUC Standards and Criteria for Review
• Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) of accreditation
• The institutional review process
• The institutional self-study and report
• Commission action
• Tools and resources
2013 Core Commitments and Standards of Accreditation

Three Core Commitments

Four Standards

• 36 Criteria for Review (CFR)
• Guidelines
2013 Core Commitments

• Student Learning and Success

• Quality and Improvement

• Institutional Integrity, Sustainability, and Accountability
2013 Standards of Accreditation

**Standard 1:** Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives

- Institutional Purpose
- Integrity and Transparency

**Standard 2:** Achieving Educational Objectives Through Core Functions

- Teaching and Learning
- Scholarship and Creative Activity
- Student Learning and Success
2013 Standards of Accreditation

**Standard 3:** Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability
- Faculty and Staff
- Fiscal, Physical, and Information Resources
- Organizational Structures and Decision-making Processes

**Standard 4:** Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement
- Quality Assurance Processes
- Institutional Learning and Improvement
Criteria for Review (CFR)

- Provide statements about the meaning of the Standard

- Are cited by institutions in their report, by teams in evaluating institutions, and by the Commission in making decisions
Guidelines

• Show typical ways institutions can put into practice a CFR

• Offer examples of how an institution can address a particular CFR

• Are not requirements or mandatory
Description of the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation

• A review process for reaffirmation that is an alternative to the process described in the 2013 Handbook of Accreditation

• Institutions provide evidence of compliance with the Standards and federal requirements and address one or more self-selected themes to demonstrate educational effectiveness
Eligibility for the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation

• Institutions show consistent evidence of:
  • Healthy fiscal condition
  • Strong student achievement indicators
  • Sustained quality performance

• Process
  • Institutions that are invited to apply for TPR indicate their interest
  • WSCUC staff conducts eligibility review looking at 30 criteria
  • Commission makes final determination of eligibility for TPR
Key Elements of the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation

- Approval of TPR in place of usual Institutional Review Process (IRP)

- Identification of themes

- Institutional self-study and report
  - Four components (1, 2, 8, and 9 of usual components)
  - “Compliance with WSCUC Standards and Federal Requirements Worksheet and Forms”
  - “Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators”

- Institutional review process
  - Accreditation Visit
  - Team report (posted on WSCUC website)

- Commission action (posted on WSCUC website)
Overview of Harvey Mudd’s Reaccreditation Process

INSTITUTION:
Self-Study & Report
Due 10 weeks before the Accreditation Visit

TEAM:
Accreditation Visit
Spring 2021

COMMISSION:
Action
Spring 2021
Timelines

1. Submit report
   - Institution submits report on box.com
   - Time: 10 weeks

2. Conference call
   - Team holds conference call

3. Site visit
   - Site visit held and team report written
   - Time: 10 weeks

4. Respond to errors of fact
   - Institution responds to errors of fact in team report

5. Respond to final report
   - Institution responds to final team report

6. Commission action
   - Commission acts at February or June meeting
Themes

• Can identify one or more themes
• May choose multiple sub-themes
• Connect to Standards and Core Commitments
• Examples of themes in “TPR Guidelines for Submission of Themes” and in “TPR Guide”
Examples of Cohort One (Pioneer) Themes

- Core Curriculum
- Academic and Co-Curricular Support Structures
- Strategic Planning
- Graduate Education Excellence
- Expanding Experiential Learning
- Equity and Inclusion
- Liberal Arts in the 21st Century
- Student Success
- Balancing Growth and Mission
Institutional Review Process:
Institutional Report

• Has the institution responded to previous Commission actions?
• Has the institution responded to the four components?
• Has it collected and analyzed data effectively?
• Are its conclusions supported by evidence?
• What are the strengths of the institution?
• Are there problems or potential areas of concern or noncompliance?
• Does the report contain recommendations for further institutional action?
Institutional Review Process: The Visit

- Exact date set 12-18 months before the visit
- Team comes to campus for three days
- Team report and recommendation sent to WSCUC Commission for action
The Institutional Self-Study and Report

- Reflect and research before you write
- The self-study is the process
- The report is the product
The Institutional Report: Importance of Evidence

AN EVIDENCE-BASED REPORT:
• Report should not just be narrative and descriptive, but reflective and analytical
• Analysis should be evidence-based
• This does NOT mean a data-dump!!!

USE EVIDENCE THAT IS:
• Relevant
• Verifiable - *truthful*
• Representative
• Cumulative
• Actionable

Evidence helps tell your story – and makes it convincing!
Tips

• Prompts are there to help facilitate your thinking; you do not need to answer each prompt

• Define (discuss), measure (assess), analyze, act (plan)

• Be self-reflective
Institutional Report: Four Components

1. Introduction: Institutional context
2. Compliance
3. Institution-Specific Themes
4. Conclusion
Institutional Report: Component 1: Introduction: Context, Response to Previous Commission Actions

• Addresses history, mission, core constituencies, recent changes
• Gives reviewers a picture of the institution’s distinctive character
• Responds to issues identified in previous Commission action letters
• Use the prompts as discussion-starters for the institution
Institutional Report: Previous Commission Recommendations

From Educational Effectiveness Review (2011)

• Continue progress in gender and ethnic diversity
• Improve educational effectiveness through
  – Assessing co-curricular aspects of the college
  – Ensuring sustainability of assessment, program review and quality assurance
  – Making student learning outcomes more easily accessible
  – Making public data on student success
• Broaden the definition and clarify learning outcomes of capstone courses
Institutional Report: Previous Commission Recommendations

From Interim Report Review (2016)
- Continue work in improving diversity
- Continue to strengthen educational effectiveness
- Continue to enhance capstone experience

From Mid-Cycle Review (2016)
- No recommendations
Institutional Report:
Component 2: Compliance with Standards and Policies

- “Compliance with WSCUC Standards and Federal Requirements Worksheet and Forms”

- Compliance includes four required Department of Education forms that must be completed by team members
  - Credit hour and program length review
  - Marketing and recruitment review
  - Student complaints review
  - Transfer credit review

- Compliance includes two areas for review, as appropriate
  - Off campus locations
  - Distance education

- “Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators”
Compliance: Compliance withWSCUC Standards and Federal Requirements

• Institution reviews itself under the Standards and under four federal requirements

• Review worksheet is submitted by the institution as part of its report, with links to documents or additional information

• Team verifies the information

• Forms for four federal requirements are attached as an appendix to the team report

• Two areas (distance education and off-campus locations) are reviewed, as appropriate, and forms are attached as an appendix to the team report
Institutional Report
Component 8: Institution-Specific Themes

• What has been the design and approach to investigate the theme?

• What kinds of evidence have been collected?

• How has evidence been used to support further inquiry and improvement?

• What has been accomplished? What are the conclusions?

• See “TPR Guide” for more details
Institutional Report
Component 9: Conclusion:
Reflection and Plans for Improvement

• What issues emerged from investigation of the themes?

• What did the institution learn through the self-study process?

• What are the plans for the future based on what was learned?

• How will momentum be sustained?

• See “TPR Guide” for more details
Institutional Report: Attachments

- “Compliance with WSCUC Standards and Federal Requirements Worksheet and Forms”

- “Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators”

- Institution-selected documents in support of narrative
Commission Review

- Commission Panel reads report and documentation including institution’s written response, talks with institutional representatives at Commission meeting
- Panel makes recommendation to Commission, and Commission acts
- Staff finalizes draft action letter on behalf of Commission
- Letter and team report are publicly available on WSCUC website
- Link provided on WSCUC website, if desired, to institution’s response to team report
Tools: TPR Resources

- Handbook of Accreditation
- Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Guide
- Compliance with WSCUC Standards and Federal Requirements Worksheet and Forms
- Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators

Available January 2019:
- TPR Evaluator Training (Online Course and Onsite Workshop)
- TPR Peer Evaluator Guide
Tools: WSCUC Resources

- Materials on Box (for visit)

- Materials on website (wscuc.org)
  - Documents list

- Resources for institutions [https://www.wscuc.org/resources](https://www.wscuc.org/resources)

- WSCUC Workshops (www.wscuc.org/educational-programs)

- The ARC – Academic Resource Conference
  - April 10-12, 2018 Hyatt Regency Orange County
Tools: WSCUC Liaison

• Counselor
• Coach/ Trainer
• Collaborator
• Communicator/Interpreter
  and, lastly,
• Compliance Officer

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