

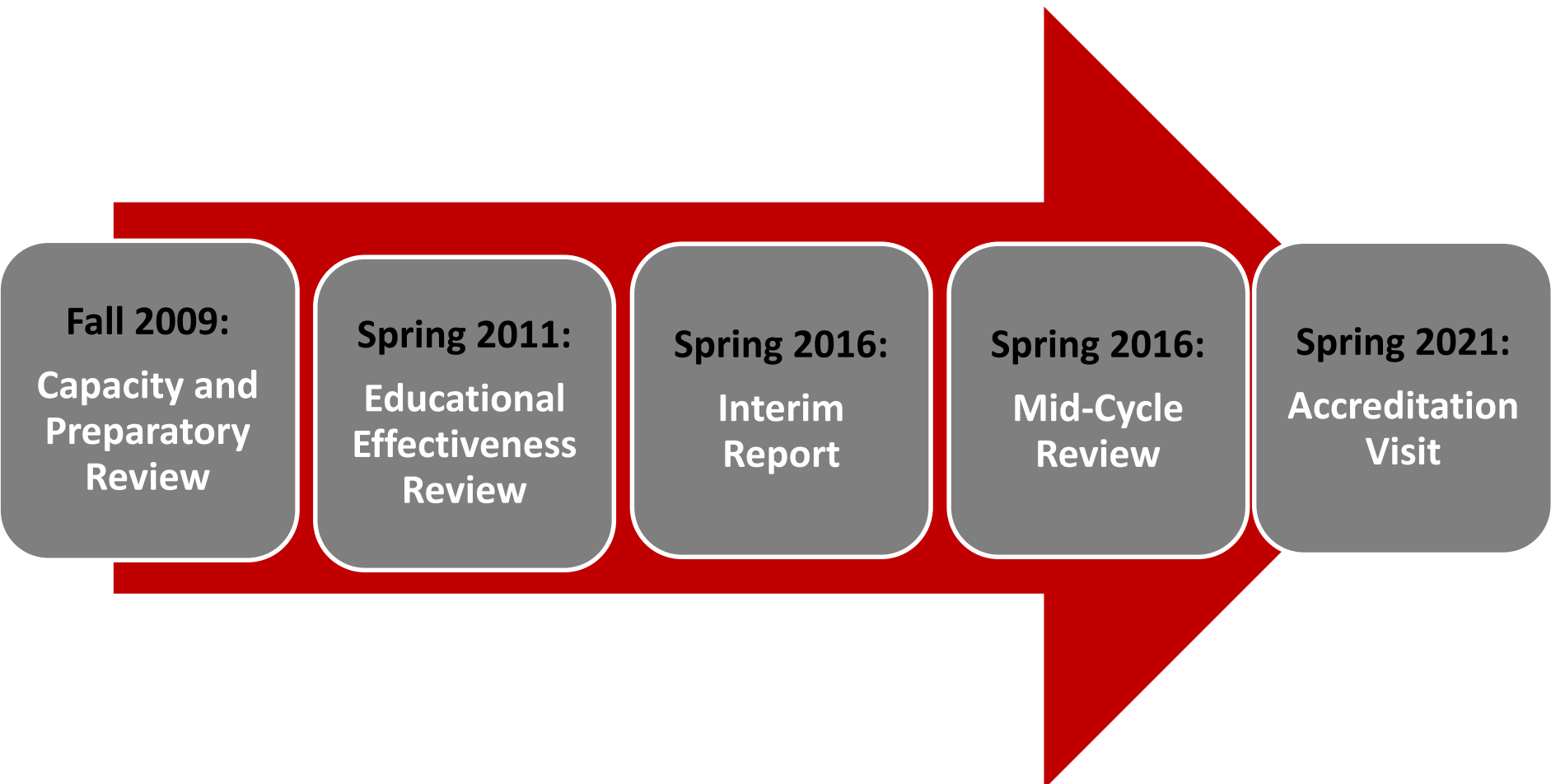
# HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

## Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

December 11, 2018

Barbara Gross Davis– Vice President  
WASC Senior College and University Commission

# 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

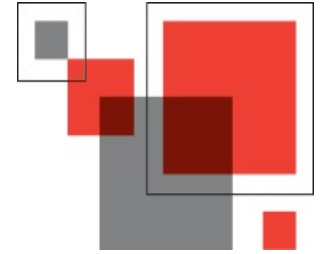
---



- 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

---

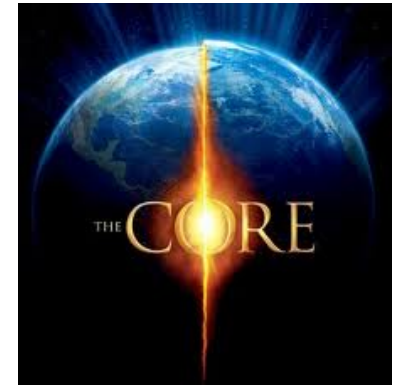


## Three Core Commitments

## 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)

---

*Criteria  
for  
Review*

- 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

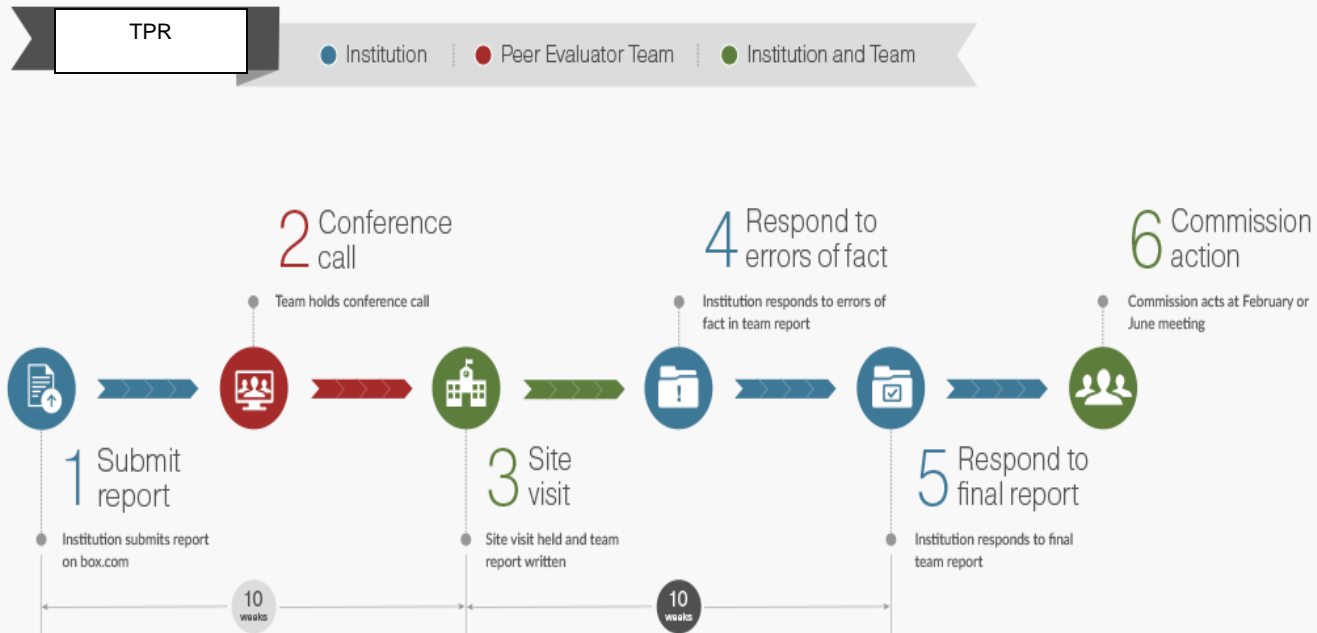
## **TEAM:**

Accreditation Visit  
Spring 2021

## **COMMISSION:**

Action  
Spring 2021

# Timelines



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!*

# The Institutional Report:

## 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 with WSCUC 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>
- WSCUC Workshops ([www.wscuc.org/educational-programs](http://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

Barbara Gross Davis

Email: [bdavis@wscuc.org](mailto:bdavis@wscuc.org)

Telephone: 510 748-9798