



# INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Telling the Story of the Wisconsin Experience

<https://hlcaccreditation.wisc.edu>

## About Open Sessions March 25-26, 2019

UW–Madison’s institutional accreditation project will culminate with a site visit on March 25-26, 2019, by a team of peer reviewers who are appointed by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Sessions on the criteria will be open to the university community (all students, staff, and faculty).

UW-Madison prepared materials that align with the HLC criteria for accreditation in the format of an assurance argument (about 120 pages) and an evidence file (about 1,100 documents), as specified by the Commission. The peer review team received access to this material about six weeks before the visit. The materials were submitted and subsequently accessed by the peer review team through an online portal known as the HLC Assurance System.

The purpose of the visit is for the peer review team to verify, clarify, and amplify the materials provided to them. The peer review team is seeking to determine if UW-Madison meets each of the five criteria for accreditation and the core components associated with each of the criteria. The peer review team will prepare a report, which is subsequently reviewed by a committee of peer reviewers and the HLC Board. The final decision is made by the HLC Board.

## Schedule for Open Sessions

Mon Mar 25, 2:30-3:25pm, Union South	Criterion 1. Mission Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
Mon Mar 25, 2:30-3:25pm, Union South	Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
Mon Mar 25, 3:30-4:25pm, Union South	Criterion 5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Tues Mar 26, 9:00-9:55am, Memorial Union	Open Listening Session

## Participation in Open Sessions

- All members of the university community (students, staff, and faculty) are welcome to attend open sessions.
- The peer reviewers will lead the open sessions. They will be asking questions that seek to verify, clarify, and amplify what they have been learning about the institution through the assurance argument and evidence files.
- Peer reviewers will be interested in individual perspectives and know that most attendees are speaking from their experience and not necessarily on behalf of the institution.

## More Information

About the UW-Madison accreditation project: <https://hlcaccreditation.wisc.edu/>

About the Higher Learning Commission: <https://www.hlcommission.org/>

About the HLC Criteria for Accreditation: <https://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/criteria-and-core-components.html>

## Contacts

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## Assurance Argument – Executive Summary

After the site visit the full text of the Assurance Argument will be available on the UW-Madison accreditation web site.

### *Criterion 1. Mission*

*The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.*

UW-Madison's mission is clearly and publicly stated. UW-Madison's identity as a leading public research university that delivers a high-quality undergraduate education and maintains a strong public service mission is evident in the priority placed on the academic environment and the learner community. The commitment to serve the full diversity of learners in society is evident in the adoption and implementation of successive diversity plans over decades and engagement with issues of diversity and inclusion. The core value of service to the state is evidenced in the Wisconsin Idea and demonstrated through activities that show an ongoing commitment to both the university's internal and external constituencies.

### *Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct*

*The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.*

UW-Madison has a well-established set of policies, procedures and infrastructure that derive from campus, UW System, state, and federal policy and regulation, and allow the institution to maintain compliance and operate in a fair and ethical manner. The university leadership team and the Board of Regents operate in an ethical manner, and in the best interests of UW-Madison. The Office of Compliance oversees a number of key compliance issues including Title IX, ADA, and HIPAA. UW-Madison will continue to prioritize efforts that support an environment for working and learning that is safe and free from harassment and sexual misconduct.

The Division of Research and Graduate Education supports compliance with responsible conducting of research, training and conflict of interest considerations in the context of university policy and federal regulation.

UW-Madison values academic freedom and academic integrity and demonstrates those values in formal and informal educational opportunities for faculty, staff and students. Students receive guidance regarding academic integrity and the university enforces campus and UW System policies in this area. Over the next year, the university will begin implementing tools to further support academic integrity in our learning environments.

### *Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support*

*The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.*

UW-Madison offers students at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels a broad range of high quality academic programs appropriate to the university's breadth of inquiry. Quality is maintained through policies and processes for campus-wide standards in admissions, program and course development and delivery, academic and career advising, and instructor qualifications. Undergraduate education is grounded in the vision of the Wisconsin Experience - that all students will select curricular and co-curricular activities that develop empathy and humility, relentless curiosity, intellectual confidence, and purposeful action. A rich array of co-curricular activities round out the educational experience. Student services offer the support systems that students need to succeed and thrive.

Directions for improvement include strengthening the presence of the Wisconsin Experience concepts across the undergraduate experience (including in general education), enhancing the integration of systems that support student learning (the Student Digital Ecosystem) as a foundation for enhancing data resources and learning analytics, and developing a robust infrastructure for online/digital education to support expansion at all levels.

*Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement*

*The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.*

UW-Madison demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services through regular program reviews, specialized accreditation, and policies and processes that ensure consistent standards across the curriculum and academic programs. UW-Madison has invested in processes to support student learning assessment and is building both the human and digital systems that support student learning assessment and improvement.

Directions for improvement include continued integration of our student and program support systems (Student Digital Ecosystem) to establish a more seamless support and data environment, and improvements that support the timely completion of degrees. Our use of data (both regular reports and focused analyses on how students are doing) will continue to drive improvement at the course and program level, and also for programs that support all students, such as advising improvements, programs to expand financial aid, and improvements in data resources for information about what students do after graduation.

*Criterion 5. Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness*

*The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.*

UW-Madison seeks to advance its mission and broaden its impact in Wisconsin and beyond through excellence in teaching, research, and outreach. The core strategic investment priorities of the university are enduring ones: improve student access, enhance the educational experience, maintain and grow faculty excellence, and expand and improve research. Carefully planned and aggressive efforts to develop revenue streams to support these investment priorities are having positive impacts. After several years with extremely constrained resources, we are now investing in these priorities. We have relaunched the faculty cluster hiring initiative and strengthened programs that support diversity. Educational excellence is supported through investments in the quality of teaching, IT and data infrastructure, advising and other student services personnel, and new and improved learning spaces. Access is supported through a number of early start programs for freshmen and aggressive financial aid programs such as Bucky's Tuition Promise. All across UW-Madison, in every area, the university demonstrates planning for the future and striving for improvements in service to all constituencies.

March 18, 2019