

AQIP



Academic
Quality Improvement
Program

The Higher Learning Commission **NCA**

A Primer

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Goals of AQIP

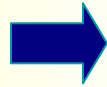
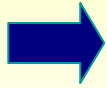
- Help organizations improve performance and maximize effectiveness while meeting accreditation requirements
- Reshape the relationship with members of the Commission into a partnership and network
- Provide the public with credible quality assurance information concerning higher education providers

AQIP Features

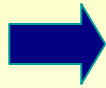
- Alternative, discriminating, voluntary
- Includes **formative** and **summative** processes
- Process- and performance-focused
- “**Peer**” interpreted broadly, inclusively
- Values and roots in quality management, TQM, CQI, Six Sigma, ISO 9000, and similar initiatives
- Seeks to make accreditation’s ROI exceed an institution’s costs (money, time, attention, etc.)



**Strategy
Forum**

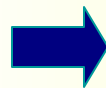


**Action
Projects**



**Annual
Updates**

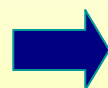
**Systems
Portfolio**



**Systems
Appraisal**



**Quality
Checkup**



**Reaffirmation of
Accreditation**

Systems Portfolio > Action Project > Update > Maintain

**Every
year**

Forum
Strategic

**Every 4
years**

Systems
Appraisal

Visit > Reaffirmation of Accreditation > Check-Up

**Every 7
years**

Admission

Application should be preceded by broad discussion of what quality improvement is and whether it fits the institution's culture and vision

Applicants should have completed two comprehensive PEAQ evaluations and be less than seven years from last comprehensive PEAQ review

Strategy Forum

Teams of institutional leaders craft and shape Action Projects and strategies together and begin to plan implementation and measurement to ensure that plans succeed

Interactive forum for institutions to review each others' Action Projects and strategies, providing and receiving constructive feedback

Action Projects

Focused improvement projects selected by institution to promote learning and culture change and respond to opportunities for improvement, problems, or challenges

Institution reports to AQIP annually on progress or completion of projects and shares Projects shared via AQIP website to promote collaboration

Annual Updates

Simple report, due September 21st,
describing organization's progress on
its current Action Projects

Reviewed by quality experts, who provide
written feedback and advice

Systems Portfolio

75-100 page public Portfolio describing fundamental institutional systems, organized around the nine AQIP categories

Portfolio created once (in the first three years after an institution joins AQIP) and then kept current by updating changes in systems, processes, and results

Each of AQIP's nine Categories examines a group of processes found in every college or university, processes that together make up one of the organization's key systems.



For each category, an organization describes its processes, their performance results, and how it improves the processes and results.

Systems Appraisal

Formative appraisal of an institution's Systems Portfolio, conducted every four years by heterogeneous panels of trained, experienced reviewers knowledgeable about quality

Separate independent and consensus review stages ensure that appraisers produce feedback that represents the team's *shared* views of institutional strengths and opportunities for improvement

Quality Checkup

Two-day, two-person formative site visit, planned collaboratively with institution, conducted one year prior to reaffirmation of accreditation

Assures accreditation issues have been addressed, spot-checks veracity of the Systems Portfolio, and affirms institutional commitment to quality improvement

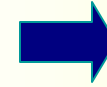
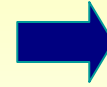
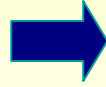
Reaffirmation

When an institution joins, AQIP sets the date of its next re-affirmation of accreditation in seven years; reaffirmation occurs every seven years thereafter

No single visit or event precipitates or causes re-affirmation; the review examines evidence the organization meets the five Criteria, is dedicated to continuous improvement, and performance results indicate that the commitment is paying off



Review





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