

HLC Accreditation Update

An inside look at NDSCS’s Reaffirmation Process

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The Criteria for HLC Accreditation

Criterion 1. Mission

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

Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

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

Criterion 3. Teaching & Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

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

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.

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.

<https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/criteria/2020-criteria/>

**Effective until August 2025*

Why is Accreditation Important to NDSCS, Students and You?

Accreditation means quality. That’s important because it determines if a college meets or exceeds minimum standards of quality. Degrees from accredited institutions are valuable. In fact, NDSCS only accepts transfer credits from accredited institutions.

Accreditation means credibility—it separates us from many for-profit colleges. Accreditation shows that NDSCS is an institution that takes steps to ensure our programs have credibility . . . for our students, our community, and employees.

Accreditation means opportunity. Without HLC accreditation our students wouldn’t get federal student aid. Without student aid many students can’t afford college. Without students, we won’t have a job.

Accreditation doesn't come easy and because we are an accredited institution, we are showing our community that we are and will continue to do the hard work required to make the college an important part of the community.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation Timeline

Your Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Committee and Subcommittees have been working hard to gather information to demonstrate how NDSCS meets each of the five Criteria and the twenty-one Core Components. Here are the key dates toward submitting our Assurance Argument to the HLC.

November 1, 2024	Draft of Criteria 2, 3, 4 completed
December 1, 2024	Draft of Criteria 1 completed
January 15, 2025	Draft of Criteria 5 completed
February 15, 2025	Draft of Federal Compliance completed
March 12, 2025	Assurance Argument and Federal
April 14-15, 2025	HLC Team Visit to NDSCS
Fall 2025	Official notification from HLC on
2035	Preparations begin for 4 year review

Meet Your HLC Planning Committees

Subject to Change

Committee Leaders: Dr. Jerry Migler, Dr. Lisa Karch, Dr. Gary Abbott, Kara Gruenberg & Heather Retzer

Assurance Argument Writers: Dr. Jerry Migler & Dana Anderson

Criteria for HLC Accreditation

In addition to the leaders listed above, there are several employees working on each of the teams. We appreciate your time and dedication to ensuring our assurance argument to the HLC is accurate and complete.

Criterion 1: Kijia Homes, Dr. Lisa Karch, Rhonda Marman, Dr. Jerry Migler, Heather Retzer

Criterion 2: Dr. Gary Abbott, Sandi Gilbertson, Kara Gruenberg, Melissa Johnson, Dr. Lisa Karch, Dr. Jerry Migler, Heather Retzer

Criterion 3: Dana Anderson, Tara Bladow, Missy DeHaan, Larissa Gilbertson, Kara Gruenberg, Dr. Lisa Karch, Jennifer Krueger, Terry Marohl, Dr. Jerry Migler, Heather Retzer

Criterion 4: Dr. Gary Abbott, Dana Anderson, Tara Bladow, Missy DeHaan, Kara Gruenberg, Dr. Lisa Karch, Michael Learn, Heather Retzer, Deb Smith,

Criterion 5: Keith Johnson, Steve Johnson, Dr. Lisa Karch, Terry Marohl, Dr. Jerry Migler, Heather Retzer

Federal Compliance Reporting

The Federal Compliance Reporting is required by all institutions in the nineteen states that the HLC accredits. The HLC reports this information with the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure the regional institutions are meeting federal DOE standards. Team members have been reaching out to departments throughout NDSCS to collect timely and accurate information. We thank them for their continued efforts and we thank you for assisting them in gathering the necessary data.

Federal Compliance 1: Assignment of Credits, Program Length and Tuition

Federal Compliance 2: Institutional Records of Student Complaints

Federal Compliance 3: Transfer Policies

Federal Compliance 4: Verification of Student Identity

Federal Compliance 5: Title IV Program Responsibility

Federal Compliance 6: Publication of Student Outcome Data

Federal Compliance 7: Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies



HLC Liaison, Dr. Linnea Stenson, Campus Visit: October 22, 2024

HLC Comprehensive Team Visit: April 14-15, 2025

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Wildcat Trivia

1. What year was NDSCS founded?
2. What year did NDSCS receive its first HLC accreditation?
3. What is NDSCS's Mission Statement?
4. How many criteria are in the HLC Criteria for Accreditation?
5. In addition to our institution being accredited by HLC, there are 12 programs that are accredited at NDSCS. Can you name 6 of them?

Submit your answers on the Google Form (see link below) for a chance to win a micropuzzle of an NDSCS photo collage. This 150 piece, 6" x 4" puzzle is a limited edition prize. If multiple people have the same top score, names will be placed on the Wheel of Names and a winner will be selected with one spin.

The deadline for entry is Friday, November 8.

<https://forms.gle/ectYXGdyvLSvG4Zk8>



NDSCS Accreditation Word Search

A K K D A C R I T E R I O N T E Y I O Q A
 R C V E C N E I C S N N R T C F G O G U I
 A G A N C G C G O O Y E O N L R J B F H Q
 L N X D R I I D I Z V V A I D A T H Y N S
 U I Z G E V N S V I A I H Y S F R R Q V I
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| ACADEMIC | LOCATIONS |
| ACCREDITATION | MISSION |
| ADVISING | MONITORING |
| ASSESSMENT | NDSCS |
| CIC | ONLINE |
| COCURRICULAR | PARTNERSHIPS |
| EVALUATORS | PATHWAY |
| FACULTY | QUALITY |
| FARGO | REDANDBLACK |
| FEDERAL | REVIEWER |
| HLC | SCIENCE |
| IMPROVEMENT | STUDENTS |
| INSTITUTION | TEACHING |
| INTEGRITY | VISION |
| LEARNING | WAHPETON |
| LIAISON | WILDCATS |