

# CURRENT ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY AND HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION UPDATE December 2013

## Summary of recent site visits:

- YSU underwent a routine site visit to review all engineering programs on October 27-29, 2013.

## Summary of recent accreditation actions:

- On July 26, 2012, the HLC notified YSU that it has been approved to select a preferred accreditation pathway. **YSU has selected the Open Pathway for reaffirmation of accreditation.** See HLC Update below.

## Details:

Program	Status
<b>Art</b> National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)	Self-study submitted March 2006. Site visit conducted April 9-12, 2006. In October 2006, NASAD granted continued accreditation for the BA in Art History, the BFA in Fine Arts in Studio Arts, and the BS in Education (Art Education) through 2015-16. NASAD approved the MA in Art Education for final listing in November 2011. Next accreditation visit scheduled for 2015-2016.
<b>Business</b> AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business	Reaffirmation visit is scheduled for October 2014. AACSB has recommended the WCBA follow the new AACSB standards approved in April 2013. WCBA is on fast track to respond to new changes. The 2011 letter from AACSB includes the following: “The Committee recommends that the College continue to work on faculty development and the hiring of AQ qualified faculty in these areas to assure that the 90 percent threshold is met in the near term” (Standard 10: Faculty Qualifications); and “The Committee recommends that the College continue pursuing additional resources to fund initiatives related to the College’s new facility.”
<b>Chemistry</b> American Chemical Society (ACS)	An annual report is submitted each August/September. A periodic, five-year program review was submitted in July 2009.
<b>Clinical Laboratory Technology</b> National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)	Most recent accreditation in 2006. Reaccreditation self-study was submitted to NAACLS May 1, 2012. Site visit occurred October 15-16, 2012. Program received no citations or recommendations. NAACLS awarded continuing accreditation for the full seven years until April 30, 2020. Submission of the next Self-Study Report will be due April 1, 2019, and a site visit will be scheduled during Fall 2019.

<b>Counseling</b> Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)	In Jan. 2007, CACREP granted full accreditation to the MS. Ed. in Community Counseling and the MS. Ed. in School Counseling for an 8-year period, until March 31, 2015. After submission of a self-study in April 2009, additional information in 2010, and an interim report in April 2012, CACREP extended the accreditation of Student Affairs to match the accreditation date of the other counseling program options until March 31, 2015. Self-study for upcoming CACREP reaccreditation will be submitted in Dec. 2013.
<b>Dental Hygiene</b> American Dental Association	Self-study for continuing accreditation of the Dental Hygiene program submitted in February 2010. Site visit occurred April 27-28, 2010. The program received full accreditation “without reporting requirements.”
<b>Dietetics Programs</b> Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) (Formerly American Dietetic Association – Council for Accreditation of Dietetic Education, CADE)	Self-studies for the Coordinated Program in Dietetics, the Didactic Program in Dietetics, and the Dietetic Technician Program submitted Aug. 16, 2010. Site visit took place Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 2010. In June 2011, CADE granted full accreditation for all three programs. Interim reports were due in Sept. 2011 and in July 2013 for the Coordinated Program in Dietetics and the Didactic Program in Dietetics. An interim report is required for the Dietetic Technician program in 2013. The 5-year midpoint Program Assessment Report is due in 2015. The next site visit will be in 2020. CADE accepted interim reports submitted in Sept. 2011. There was a site visit March 4 & 5 regarding approval of expansion of the Dietetic Technician program to the campus of Lorain County Community College. The site visit team report has been received and a response submitted. Official action by ACEND is expected soon.
<b>Education and Licensure Programs</b> National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)  Accreditation occurs at the “unit” (BCOE) level.	The NCATE site visit took place March 20-24, 2010. On November 5, 2010, NCATE sent official notice that accreditation “is continued at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels.” YSU meets all 6 NCATE standards. The next site visit will take place in spring 2017.
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b> State of Ohio Department of Public Safety/ Division of Emergency Medical Services  Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ... EMS Professions (CoAEMSP—CAAHEP)	Self-study submitted to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS Dec. 2010. Site visit was conducted on May 2, 2011. The EMS program was granted full accreditation for five years.  CoAEMSP awarded the program continuing accreditation on Nov. 17, 2006. Reaccreditation self-study was due Feb. 1, 2011. Site visit was conducted May 2-3, 2011. The site team reported no citations at the exit meeting. CAAHEP awarded a full 5-year accreditation.
<b>Engineering</b> Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)	All associate and undergraduate programs fully accredited through September 30, 2014. YSU underwent a routine site visit to review all engineering programs on October 27-29, 2013.

<b>Engineering Technology</b> Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ETAC-ABET)	ETAC-ABET granted continuing accreditation in August 2012. CCET (BSAS) has been accredited through Sept. 30, 2018. CCET (AAS), EET (AAS), EET (BSAS), and MET (AAS) have received notice from ETAC-ABET that these programs do not have to submit an interim report and are accredited through Sept. 30, 2018. MET (BSAS) is accredited through Sept. 30, 2014, and has requested an interim reaccreditation report evaluation. The report has been submitted.
<b>Foreign Languages</b> ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Recognition for French Education, Italian Education, and Spanish Education	ACTFL granted national recognition with conditions in 2010. The program was resubmitted in March 2012 and March 2013. National recognition with conditions was again granted, with an extension of the timeline for resubmission until March 15, 2014. The reviewers indicated that substantial progress had been achieved and requested only that program requirements be stated more clearly in certain documents provided to students.
<b>Forensic Science</b> American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)	Application for initial accreditation pending; self-study and site visit to follow.
<b>Histotechnology</b> National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)	Due to low enrollment, job saturation, and the inability to secure an adequate number of clinical sites, the Histotechnology program is being moved to an “inactive status” beginning fall 2013. The current student cohort will complete degree requirements Spring 2013. No other cohorts will be accepted. Accreditation requires that the program remain intact until end of spring 2014. Voluntary accreditation withdrawal was submitted and acknowledged by NAACLS and will be officially acted upon at the April 2014 Board of Directors meeting.
<b>Human Ecology</b> American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)	Self-study for initial accreditation of baccalaureate programs in Family and Consumer Sciences (Family and Consumer Studies; Merchandising-Fashion and Interiors; Food and Nutrition [including the Didactic Program in Dietetics and the Coordinated Program in Dietetics]; Hospitality Management; and the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program) submitted August 2006; accepted Nov. 2006. Site visit conducted April 15-19, 2007. AAFCS granted full 10-year accreditation in Oct. 2007; self-study due 2016. The most recent required biannual progress report was submitted Jan. 16, 2012, and accepted April 13, 2012.
<b>Medical Assisting Technology</b> American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMAE)/Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	Most recent accreditation July 2004. Reaccreditation self-study was submitted December 27, 2012. The site visit is scheduled for May 6-7, 2013. MAERB is reviewing the program at its August 2013 meeting.
<b>Music</b> National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)	At its June 2012 meetings, the NASM Commission on Accreditation voted to continue YSU and the Dana School of Music in good standing. A follow-up report on activities was sent to the NASM national office on April 19, 2013. In June 2013, the NASM Commission on Accreditation voted to accept the YSU progress report. The next full review will take place in the 2020-2021 academic year.

<b>Nursing</b> National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission	Self-study for BSN and MSN submitted January 2006; site visit conducted March 7-9, 2006. At its July 2006 meeting, the Commission granted continuing accreditation to both the BSN and the MSN. The next site visit will take place in spring 2014.
<b>Physical Therapy</b> Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	<p>Accreditation report for the Physical Therapy Education program submitted spring 2004. Self-study for master's program submitted February 2004; site visit conducted April 19-21, 2004. Notice of 10-year accreditation received November 19, 2004. Progress report submitted August 15, 2005, and accepted in October 2005; CAPTE continued the accreditation granted the year before. The department submitted an additional progress report in August 2006, and CAPTE found the program in full compliance. In October 2006, the Commission continued the accreditation granted in 2004.</p> <p>The MPT has been discontinued. Accreditation now applies to the DPT program approved by the Higher Learning Commission in 2008. Next site visit has been scheduled for April 27-30, 2014.</p>
<b>Public Health (Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health)</b> Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)	The MPH is offered by a consortium of six institutions, including YSU. Initial accreditation earned in 2003. Site visit occurred April 20-21, 2009. In October 2009, the Council renewed accreditation for seven years, until December 31, 2016. Interim report is due in fall 2011.
<b>Respiratory Care and Respiratory Care "Polysomnography Specialty Option"</b> Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)	<p>The Polysomnography [Sleep-Study] Specialty Option in the Respiratory Care program received "continuing accreditation" September 19, 2008, and will undergo accreditation review with the respiratory care program. A progress report is submitted annually. Self-study documents for the BS in Respiratory Care and Polysomnography Specialty Option were submitted on August 28, 2010.</p> <p>The site visit for Respiratory Care and Polysomnography took place February 17 and 18, 2011. CoARC granted both programs full continuing accreditation, with no further progress reports due.</p>
<b>Social Work</b> Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	<p>In response to the submission of reaffirmation materials submitted in April 2012 and an on-campus site visit that occurred in October 2012, the Council on Social Work Education has informed the Department of Social Work that the Bachelor of Social Work program has been reaffirmed accreditation status in February 2013. This accreditation status remains in effect until February 2021.</p> <p>In February 2012, the Council on Social Work Education granted reaffirmation of accreditation of the</p>

	Master of Social Work Program. The program remains in accredited status until 2020.
<b>Theater</b> National Association of Schools of Theater (NAST)	Self-study submitted summer 2006; site visit conducted October 5-6, 2006. In April 2007, NAST renewed accreditation, commended YSU for addressing program needs and making Theater a “free-standing” unit, and requested a follow-up report. The follow-up report was accepted, and the program is in full compliance. Next renewal and on-site visit will occur in 2016-17.

### **Update on Higher Learning Commission Accreditation and Assessment of Student Learning**

YSU has made and continues to make progress in fostering meaningful and relevant assessment of student learning, including assessment of the general-education program:

- **New HLC Expectations on Assessment, General Education, Program Review, Persistence, and Completion:** In July 2013, the Assessment Director and the General Education Coordinator attended a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) workshop titled “Current Expectations for Assessment of Student Learning, General Education, and Students Success.” The HLC has reaffirmed the increasing rigor with which it expects institutions to focus on student learning outcomes. At the conference, the HLC outlined a deepened commitment to student learning with expectations surrounding demonstration of high quality academic programs, institutional practices, and support for student persistence and completion. The clear message was that institutions must place student learning at the center of all they do. This focus on increased rigor and responsibility was presented at Deans’ Council in September and will also be presented at the Chairpersons’ Meeting in November. At the Deans’ Council meeting, the Provost recommended that a committee be convened to begin initial evaluation of institutional strengths and challenges.
- **General Education:** Progress continues on the two initiatives begun in 2011 to assess the general education program: the ROAD project initiative and the domain assessment initiative.

As part of the Repository of Assessment Documents (ROAD) project, more than 800 writing samples from the second English composition course (ENGL 1551) have now been evaluated. Writing samples from the spring 2011 semester through fall 2012 have been scored and analyzed. The analysis shows a strong correlation between ACT scores and ROAD rubric scores, but a much smaller correlation between grades and ROAD rubric scores. This fact could be the result of the inconsistent weighting of effort and performance in 1551 courses. During the summer of 2013, the results from the ROAD project were presented to English composition instructors, and a roundtable discussion was held with ROAD reviewers. A number of recommendations were made, including the move to offer more APA-style instruction in English 1551. These recommendations were later discussed with the composition coordinator, the chair of the English department, and the director of the writing center.

Progress has also been made on the upper-division portion of the ROAD project. Preliminary results indicate that upper-division students are doing relatively well on the ROAD rubric, but the sample is still too small to make any formal conclusions. The Writing Center Coordinator met with the General Education Committee in the fall 2012 semester to provide feedback on the pilot program and to provide recommendations about how to improve the submission and evaluation process. As a result of that meeting and with the help of the Writing Center Coordinator and English Composition Coordinator, the instructions for ROAD submissions were modified, a ROAD FAQ for upper-division classes was created, and an effort was made to identify potential ROAD liaisons in every department. Currently, about 25% of departments have identified a ROAD liaison. In fall 2012 and spring 2013, sets of writing samples were collected from previously identified upper-division courses. A review of a sampling of the writings is currently underway.

The second initiative involves assessment of the general education knowledge domains. In fall 2012, Dr. Milton Cox, a nationally-recognized expert on learning communities, consulted on campus and ran a workshop to help initiate the development of learning communities for general education assessment. His feedback prompted some modifications to the previous YSU timeline. In particular, Dr. Cox highly recommended only one-year learning community commitments from faculty as opposed to the multi-year commitments that were imagined in the originally proposed timeline. A pilot learning community on the improvement and assessment of general education began in January 2013 and finished in May 2013. Despite difficulties in recruitment for the learning community, all of the participants felt that the learning community was a worthwhile experience. A learning community on improving writing on campus is currently being conducted, but it is being facilitated through Faculty Development instead of General Education. This system appears to be a more natural fit for learning communities at YSU.

In addition to the development of learning communities, steps have been taken to include faculty and student perceptions and self-evaluations in the assessment process. Surveys of both faculty and students are being developed. A preliminary version was submitted to a small group of volunteers from various college-level assessment committees. The survey is currently being revised based on their feedback. A number of short, 5-minute surveys will be conducted instead of one long survey. The faculty survey should be distributed in fall 2013, and the student survey should be distributed in spring 2014.

The transition to the new general education requirements adopted by the Academic Senate has gone smoothly. Departments have revised curriculum sheets to reflect the new requirements, text in the undergraduate bulletin has been revised, and the professional academic advisors have not reported any significant problems resulting from the transition. There have also been substantial increases in student general education completion rates.

- **Program-Assessment Participation:** The Office of Assessment has begun the reporting and review cycles for 2013-14 for the academic and co-curricular (formerly “non-academic”) units. Reports for the 149 academic programs reporting on student learning assessment processes were due on October 31, 2013. More than 40 Assessment Council members and

volunteer reviewers from across campus will review and provide feedback on all reports and plans this fall. Information on reporting rates and quality of reports will be available in early 2014.

Co-curricular units reported in June 2013 to the Office of Assessment with 95% of departments submitting reports (21 of 22 departments) and with 85% evaluated to be of high quality (18 of 21 reports). Reports were reviewed by cross-disciplinary teams of faculty and staff serving on the Assessment Council and the Assessment Director. Feedback was returned in August 2013.

- **Activities to Promote a Positive Assessment Culture:** A critical part of meeting HLC accreditation expectations is fostering a vital campus community with faculty and staff engaged in meaningful student learning assessment activities. The Office of Assessment meets this expectation in part through programming provided to the campus community. In addition to fulfilling HLC expectations, these activities meet the goals of the 2020 Strategic Plan Cornerstones in the areas of Accountability, Student Success, and Urban Research.

The Office of Assessment has targeted several academic areas to promote an assessment-positive campus: the first faculty update newsletter was released to highlight campus-wide assessment activities and to raise campus awareness about the positive impact of student learning assessment on academic programs; the Office of Assessment partnered with the Faculty Development Committee to offer a webinar on student learning; and the Assessment Director, along with the General Education Coordinator, will be seeking training in backward design to promote course-level integrated student learning assessment.

In addition, with the cooperation of Student Affairs, the Office of Assessment launched a new group to foster increased professional development around assessment for the Student Affairs unit involved in assessment reporting. The Team for Assessment Knowledge and Skills, or SA TASK, has representatives from 13 Student Affairs units and began meeting in October 2013. The Office of Assessment is also in the process of developing a similar group for co-curricular units under Academic Affairs.

- **Student Satisfaction Survey:** To support participation in the Voluntary System of Accountability, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered in spring 2013. This survey also serves as a metric for the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, Student Success Cornerstone, Theme 2. All first-year and senior students were invited through email invitation and campus-wide promotions to participate. The final response rate was excellent, with more than 23% of students responding. This response rate exceeds the response rate for YSU's peer institutions as well as IUC institutions. The survey asks students about high-impact educational practices proven to lead to student learning and student persistence. Raw data from the survey was returned in October 2013 and initial analysis has begun. Results will be disseminated to campus constituents in spring 2014 in order to improve educational practices and impact student learning and success.

## **New Higher Learning Commission Criteria and Accreditation Pathways**

The Board of the Higher Learning Commission approved the new criteria for accreditation (with more focus on institutional transparency, institutional performance, student persistence, and program/degree completion) in February 2012.

At the same time, the HLC approved new “pathways” for accreditation. The pathways will replace the traditional accreditation process for most institutions and change the schedule for accreditation. On April 5, 2012, the HLC informed the institution that YSU is eligible to participate in “the Open, AQIP, or Standard Pathway for reaffirmation of accreditation” when the new criteria go into effect in fall 2012.

On July 26, 2012, the HLC notified YSU that it has been approved to select a preferred accreditation pathway. **YSU has selected the Open Pathway for reaffirmation of accreditation.**

- The **Open Pathway** operates on 10-year cycle and offers more flexibility, fewer comprehensive evaluations, fewer site visits, and less monitoring than the Standard Pathway. AQIP operates on a seven-year cycle and thus would require more frequent reaffirmation and site visits than the Open pathway.
- YSU will define and begin a project in 2012-13 (selecting a suitable **Quality Initiative** that focuses on “institution innovation and improvement”). YSU will have several years to complete the proposed project, after which a quality-initiative review will occur. The next reaffirmation of accreditation visit will occur in 2017-18.
- **Assurance Review** accreditation reports will normally be due in years 4 and 10 of the process. Since YSU will transition into the pathway in year 5 (2012-13), YSU will not have an assurance review report due at year 4. The assurance review in 2017-18 will include the site visit for reaffirmation of accreditation.
- The annual reports, plus the quality initiative, plus the assurance report and visit in 2017-18 will replace the former comprehensive evaluation process. According to the HLC, the assurance report, or “self-study,” may be somewhat shorter than the old-style self-studies and will not necessarily involve the entire campus as in the past.