

Oakland University Assessment Committee

Assessment Process for Programs with External Accreditation

Overview

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA), the university's accrediting body, requires the university to *'demonstrate a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning'*. However, the NCA allows the university to decide how best to meet this requirement.

Typically, programs meet this requirement by participating in the university's assessment cycle, as detailed by the university assessment committee (UAC). Programs normally participate in this cycle by first submitting an assessment plan to the UAC, and upon approval, implementing that plan and reporting the results of the implementation back to the UAC in two-year repeating cycles.

Programs with external accreditation sometimes operate with a slightly different process than other programs. Typically, external accreditors have assessment requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the HLC. As such, fulfilling the assessment requirements of the external accreditor is usually sufficient to satisfy the requirements of both the UAC and the HLC. Programs with external accreditation are eligible to apply for a special waiver to have their accreditation process substitute for the normal university process, reducing the burden on programs with external accreditation and on the UAC.

This is how it works. First, the program must show how their external accrediting body's requirements meet or exceed the requirements of the Higher Learning Commission. This is done through a simple 'mapping' process that is submitted to the UAC. Once the mapping process is reviewed and approved, the UAC then only requires your accrediting body's formal letter of accreditation as evidence that the program is fulfilling the assessment requirements of the HLC. Each time a program is re-accredited, it will need to submit another formal letter, which serves as a substitute for the normal assessment process until its next round of accreditation. This saves the program and the UAC time, because the program does not have to submit formal plans or reports to the UAC.

Instructions: Summary

Step 1: Basic Information

Step 2: Mapping of Standards

Step 3: Final Steps

Please fill this form out electronically. If you are **NOT** accredited by an external body, use [this form](#) instead.

For questions, comments, or help with this form, contact Reuben Ternes (ternes@oakland.edu).

Completed forms should be sent electronically to Reuben Ternes (ternes@oakland.edu).

Step 1: Basic Information

Please fill out the following basic information about your program.

Program Name: BSE in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering

School or College your program resides in: School of Engineering and Computer Science

Program Level (check all that apply):

Undergrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Master's	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctoral	<input type="checkbox"/>

External Accrediting Agency: Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

Today's Date: 9/23/2023

Current Assessment Contact Representative (& E-mail): Brian Dean <bkdean@oakland.edu>

Current Department or Program Chair (& E-mail): Osamah A. Rawashdeh <rawashd2@oakland.edu>

Current Dean (& E-mail): Louay Chamra <chamra@oakland.edu>

Step 2: Program Mapping

Programs with external accreditation must still meet the accrediting standards of the Higher Learning Commission, or submit an assessment report using the long form. Programs with external accreditation must meet the following requirements as stipulated by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association:

1. The institution has effective processes for assessment of student learning and for achievement of learning goals in academic and cocurricular offerings.
2. The institution uses the information gained from assessment to improve student learning.
3. The institution's processes and methodologies to assess student learning reflect good practice, including the substantial participation of faculty, instructional and other relevant staff members.

In order for your mapping to be approved, your external accrediting agency must require the above criteria to be met, in some fashion or another. Below, please provide the exact language that your accrediting body uses to show that each of the requirements listed above is also required by your accrediting body. Understand that this mapping is to the HLC's requirements and the requirements of your accrediting body, and has nothing to do with your program or how your program does assessment. Use the exact language of your accrediting body. In addition, you must provide the location of where members of the UAC can find this language – either a page number in a document or a hyperlink to the appropriate location on the website of your accrediting agency.

Higher Learning Commission Requirements	Your Accrediting Body's Associated Requirements	Location
<p>The institution has effective processes for assessment of student learning and for achievement of learning goals in academic and cocurricular offerings.</p>	<p>“This section of your Self-Study Report should document your processes for regularly assessing and evaluating the extent to which the student outcomes are being attained. This section should also document the extent to which the student outcomes are being attained and describe how the results of these processes are utilized to affect continuous improvement of the program. Each program must independently assess all student outcomes; when programs share courses, assessment data must be disaggregated by program in order to ensure the individual program’s outcomes are being independently assessed.”</p>	<p>“E002_EAC-Self-Study-Questionnaire-2023-2024.docx” page 13 “Criterion 4. Continuous Improvement” first paragraph.</p>
<p>The institution uses the information gained from assessment to improve student learning.</p>	<p>“Describe how the results of evaluation processes for the student outcomes and any other available information have been systematically used as input in the continuous improvement of the program. Describe the results of any changes (whether or not effective) in those cases where re-assessment of the results has been completed. Indicate any significant future program improvement plans</p>	<p>“E002_EAC-Self-Study-Questionnaire-2023-2024.docx” page 13 “Criterion 4.B Continuous Improvement”</p>

Higher Learning Commission Requirements	Your Accrediting Body's Associated Requirements	Location
<p>The institution's processes and methodologies to assess student learning reflect good practice, including the substantial participation of faculty, instructional and other relevant staff members.</p>	<p>based upon recent evaluations. Provide a brief rationale for each of these planned changes.”</p> <hr/> <p>“Describe the role played by faculty members with respect to course creation, modification, and evaluation, their role in the definition and revision of program educational objectives and student outcomes, and their role in the attainment of the student outcomes. Describe the roles of others on campus, e.g., dean or provost, with respect to these areas.”</p> <hr/> <p>ABET re-evaluates programs at least every 6 years. ABET continually updates requirements for Accreditation to ensure current best practices are reflected in the accreditation criteria.</p> <p>“On October 29, 2022, the ABET Board of Delegates approved a revised Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual for implementation in the 2023–2024 accreditation cycle. The revised version has been posted for the 2023-2024 accreditation cycle and substantive changes are in BOLD. APPM changes are applicable to all commissions.”</p> <hr/> <p>“ABET accreditation tells your prospective students, peers and the professions you serve that your program:</p>	<p>“E002_EAC-Self-Study-Questionnaire-2023-2024.docx” page 13 “Criterion 6.E Authority and Responsibility of Faculty”</p> <hr/> <p>Accreditation Changes https://www.abet.org/accreditation/accreditation-criteria/accreditation-changes/</p> <hr/> <p>“Why ABET Accreditation Matters” https://www.abet.org/accreditation/what-is-accreditation/why-abet-accreditation-matters/</p>

Higher Learning Commission Requirements	Your Accrediting Body's Associated Requirements	Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has received international recognition of its quality. • Promotes “best practices” in education. • Directly involves faculty and staff in self-assessment and continuous quality improvement processes. • Is based on “learning outcomes,” rather than “teaching inputs.” • Can more easily determine the acceptability of transfer credits.” 	Found under the “Institutions” heading

Step 3: Final Steps

Please e-mail your completed form to the UAC/OIRA liaison, Reuben Ternes (ternes@oakland.edu). The UAC will review the program mapping to make sure it meets the HLC standards. After the review is complete, you will receive a response from the UAC indicating the final result of the review.