

Accreditation Matters

Issue 1

UC Blue Ash College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation was granted on July 25, 1969 and the most recent reaffirmation of accreditation was in 2008-09. The next reaffirmation of accreditation is slated for 2018-19.

Vision Statement

The University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College will be a recognized leader in providing exceptional teaching that inspires students to unlock their potential and contribute to the local and global communities.

Mission Statement

The University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College provides an excellent and accessible education for students from a wide array of educational and cultural backgrounds.

Our student-centered approach to teaching and comprehensive services engage students so that they can acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed academically, personally, and professionally.

We promote innovative scholarship and creative works, free inquiry, lifelong learning, and service beyond the classroom.

Core Values

The faculty, staff, and students of the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College work together to carry out the college's mission and vision, guided by a special set of core values that are the foundation of who we are and what we want to become.

We value...

- the individual talents of our students, faculty, and staff.
- student-centered teaching that challenges and inspires.
- comprehensive education that develops critical thinking and an engaged citizenry.
- rigorous, accredited programs of study.
- accessible and affordable education.
- diversity in experiences and perspectives.
- innovative scholarship and creative works.
- service to the broader community.

Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Primer

About HLC

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation that is one of six regional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region of 19 states.

<https://www.hlcommission.org/About-HLC/about-hlc.html>

HLC Guiding Values

1. Focus on student learning
2. Education as a public purpose
3. Education for a diverse, technological, globally connected world
4. A culture of continuous improvement
5. Evidence-based institutional learning and self-representation
6. Integrity, transparency, and ethical behavior or practice
7. Governance for the well-being of the institution
8. Planning and management of resources to ensure institutional sustainability
9. Mission-centered evaluation
10. Accreditation through peer review

Assumed Practices

- A. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- B. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
- C. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
- D. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

Criteria for Accreditation

Mission

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

Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

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

Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

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

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.

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.

UC Blue Ash Accreditation

Open Pathway, 10 year cycle

- Year 4 Assurance Review
- Years 5-9 Quality Initiative
- Year 10 Comprehensive Evaluation
 - Assurance Review
 - Federal Compliance Review
 - Student Opinion Survey
 - On-site team of HLC peer reviewers

About our Visit

- February 25 & 26, 2019
- Meetings with committees, chairs, open forums for faculty and staff
- 8:00am – 5:00pm on Mon. and 8:00am – 2:00pm on Tues. have availability for meetings.
- Have examples in mind of things that make us special, ways that we have used data to improve, notable faculty, staff, department, and student accomplishments.