Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Criterion

**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 and 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.

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**WCCCD Assurance Argument Process**

1. **Step 1: Review Criteria and Samples of Evidence**
2. **Step 2: Collect and Review Evidence**
3. **Step 3: Discuss evidence and responses to questions**
4. **Step 4: Draft responses to questions with supporting details**
5. **Step 5: Draft and review assurance argument for criterion**

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**What can you do in preparation for HLC?**

1. Update all licenses and certifications to teach and provide them to HR
2. Gather evidence of assessment and student outcomes materials and reports
3. Complete all surveys administered by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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WCCCD is currently in the process of collecting and reviewing evidence in preparation for the assurance argument formerly known as the “Self-Study”