PATHWAYS OVERVIEW

Comparing Standard, Open & AQIP

Higher Learning Commission
A commission of the North Central Association

Multiple Pathways

Greater Value to Institutions

ACCREDITATION

Greater Credibility to the Public

Multiple Pathways

Quality Assurance

ACCREDITATION

Quality Improvement

Multiple Pathways

- *Standard Pathway*
- *Open Pathway*
- *AQIP Pathway*

Multiple Pathways

Pathways for Maintaining Accreditation	STANDARD PATHWAY	OPEN PATHWAY	AQIP PATHWAY
Who Participates	• Institutions eligible to choose this pathway • Institutions granted initial accreditation through the first ten years • Institutions that are not eligible to choose other pathways	Institutions eligible to choose this pathway	Institutions eligible to choose this pathway
How Pathway Assures Compliance with Criteria, Federal Requirements, Other Commission Policies	Institutional Update Filing and Analysis		
	• Ten-year cycle • Comprehensive Evaluation with visit in Years 4 and 10	• Ten-year cycle • Assurance Review in Year 4, Comprehensive Evaluation with visit in Year 10	• Eight-year cycle • Systems Appraisals in Year 3 and Year 7 and Comprehensive Quality Review with visit in Year 8
	• May require interim reports and focused visits • Follows Commission policies and practices on institutional change	• May require interim reports • Follows Commission policies and practices on institutional change	• May require interim reports • Follows Commission policies and practices on institutional change
How Pathway Encourages Improvement	Improvement is aligned with Assurance Argument	• Quality Initiative between Years 5-9 • Initiative approval at launch of Initiative • Report review at conclusion (no visit)	Improvement-focused Action Projects and Strategy Forums
Role of Peer Reviewers	Corps of trained and experienced professionals serve as peer reviewers and decision-makers in these processes		

All Pathways

Quality Assurance

Criteria reviews twice in a cycle

Quality Improvement

One Accreditation Regardless of Pathway

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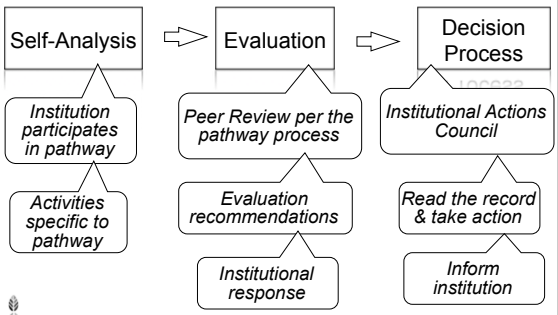
Anatomy of a Pathway



Common Elements

•
•
•
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  •
  credit hour)
  • Review of distance delivery
  • Multi-campus visits (if applicable)
  • Multi-location visits (if applicable)

Common Elements

•
•
  reviewed annually
• Substantive Change requirements and processes are followed regardless of pathway
  • Refined applications
  • Desk, panel, or visit reviews
• Commission-sponsored technology infrastructure provided

Technology Infrastructure

•
  Assurance System
• = Action Project Directory
•
  while involved in Academy Programs = Collaboration Network

Elements of Two Pathways

- *Standard Pathway*
- *Open Pathway*

Preparing for a Review

Assurance Filing

Assurance Argument
Write or Update

- Institution makes the case that it meets Criteria (within word limit allowed)
- Limit is 40,000 words for Standard and 35,000 words for Open
- Up to 15 institutional representatives can be assigned access to system

Assurance Filing

Evidence File
Accumulate and update evidence

Assurance Argument
Write or Update

- and addendum area added during the review
- The institution uploads documents and links to Core Components
- Upload once, link many times to a full document or specific pages within a document

Assurance Filing

Evidence File
Accumulate and update evidence

Assurance Argument
Write or Update

- Evidence must be linked or peer reviewers will not be able to view documents
- Six items may posted via URL (course catalog, handbooks, class schedules, and faculty roster)

Assurance Filing

Evidence File
Accumulate and Update Evidence

Assurance Argument
Write or Update

Add-On Forms
Supplement to review

- Federal Compliance report uploaded into "add-on forms" tab for <u>every comprehensive review</u>
- Other material to review (embedded change, multi-campus, etc.) may also be uploaded into "add-on" tab

Sample Cycle

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Enter Years										
Institutional Activities	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if required			Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File); Federal Compliance Requirements[1]	Submit interim reports and undergo visits if required					Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File); Federal Compliance Requirements[1]
Peer Review	Review interim reports and conduct visits if required			Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)	Review interim reports and conduct visits if required					Assurance Review and Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)
Commission Decision Making	Action on interim reports and visits if required			Action on Comprehensive Evaluation[1]	Action on interim reports and visits if required					Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation[1]

Types of Evaluations

- *Assurance Review*
- *Comprehensive Review*

Assurance Review

- Filing conducted via Assurance System
  - *Examines Evidence File and Assurance Argument*
  - *Any other required materials*
- Forms basis of other reviews
- Occurs in Year 4 of Open, and with all comprehensive reviews in Standard and Open
- 3, 5, or 7 reviewers
- May require interim monitoring
- Review alone does not result in reaffirmation of accreditation

Comprehensive Evaluation

- Several elements examined including
  -
  -
  -
    campus, embedded change requests)
- Occurs in Years 4 and 10 in Standard; Year 10 in Open
- May require interim monitoring

Comprehensive Evaluation

- 1 ½ day onsite visit with fixed agenda
- Teams of 3, 5, or 7 (may need more due to complex circumstances)
- Leads to reaffirmation of accreditation decision and Pathway affirmation at Year 10 (& for some institutions at Year 4)

The Visit differs from PEAQ

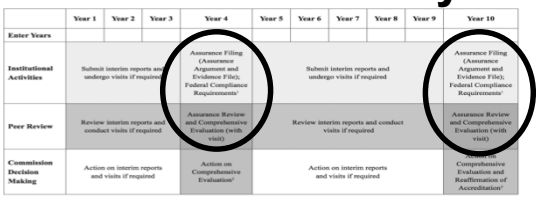
- An electronic review is conducted before visit
- Customary meetings and reviews
- Targeted areas of focus
- Engagement of the constituents via Open Forums
- Additional required or requested reviews, if applicable

Standard Pathway

Standard Pathway

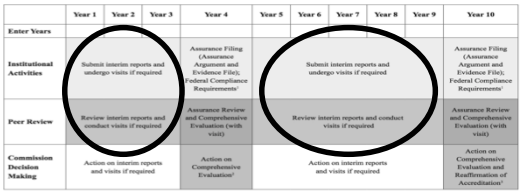
- Cycle length: 10 years
- Assurance & Improvement requirements addressed <u>together</u> in Assurance Argument
- Comprehensive evaluations (with visits) occur in Years and 10
- May be <u>selected</u> by any institution
- <u>Required</u> for new or rapidly changing institutions, or others that have demonstrated a need for closer Commission oversight

Standard Pathway



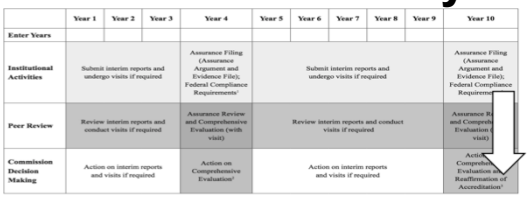
- Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit) in Years 4 and 10
- Assurance Filing (including focus on improvement), Federal Compliance, and other required materials submitted

Standard Pathway



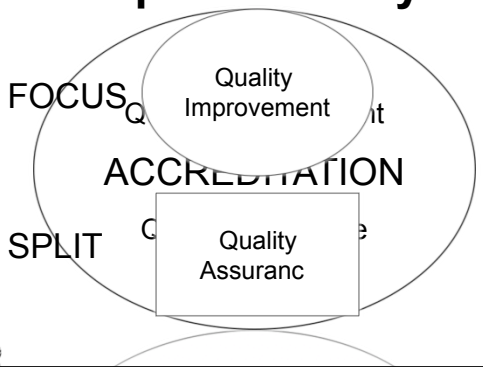
- Improvement addressed in interim monitoring (Years 1-3 & 5-9), if applicable
- Monitoring reports or focused visits may be required during these years (or embedded within the comprehensive review)

Standard Pathway



- Reaffirmation occurs in Year 10 for most
- Reaffirmation also occurs in Year 4 following granting of initial accreditation or removal of Probation or Show Cause

Open Pathway



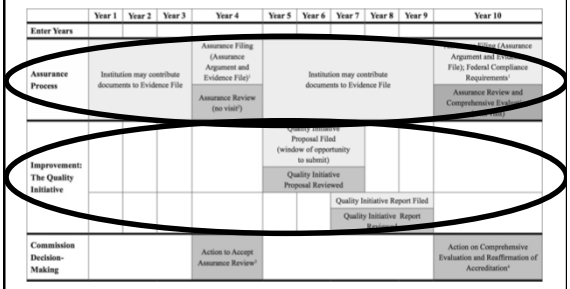
Open Pathway

- Cycle length: 10 years
- Evaluation of assurance is independent from Improvement
- Assurance Review in Year 4; Comprehensive Evaluation in Year 10

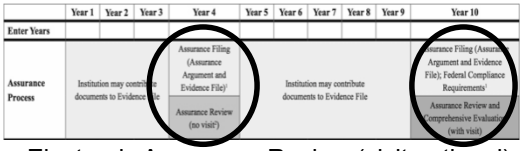
Eligible Institutions

- Accredited for at least 10 years
- No recent Change of Control
- No recent Commission sanction
- No extensive past or future monitoring
- No significant Commission concerns in areas such as leadership, student body, or review by governmental agency

Complete Open Pathway

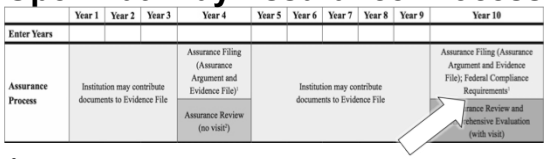


Open Pathway Assurance Process



- Electronic Assurance Review (visit optional) in Year 4. Report identifies issues proactively
- Year 4 reviewers may interact with institution via technology or require a visit
- The separate Quality Initiative provides the improvement focus

Open Pathway Assurance Process



- 10
- Year 4 and 10 reviews require 3, 5, or 7 reviewers (or more due to complex circumstances)
- Teams or IAC may require interim reports but the institution would be reassigned to the Standard Pathway if a focused visit was required

Open Pathway

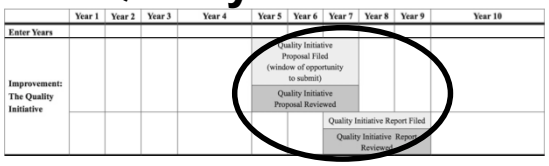
Quality Initiative

Quality Improvement

Assurance Process

Quality Assurance

Quality Initiative



- Identified by institution to suit its needs
- Has appropriate scope, significance, clear outcomes, evidence of commitment & capacity, realistic timeline
- Conducted between Years 5 and 9

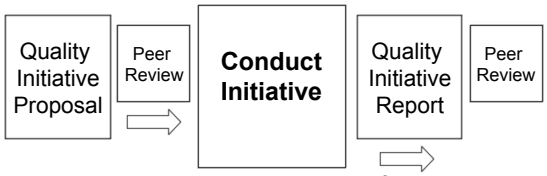
Quality Initiative Options

- Institution identifies and designs its own initiative
- Institution selects from a menu of topics
- Institution may choose to collaborate with other institutions
- Institution participates in a Commission Academy

Quality Initiatives

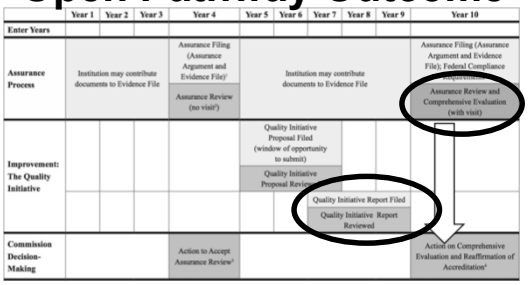
- Strive for significant impact
- Demonstrate sincere and engaged work
- Evaluated solely on genuine effort by a panel of peer reviewers
- Learn from success or failure

Quality Initiative



- Institutions determine initiative & write proposal
- Peer reviewers review proposal
- Institutions complete initiative & write report
- Peer reviewers confirm genuine effort & may offer feedback, if requested

Open Pathway Outcome



Results of Quality Initiative and Assurance Processes remain separate but are brought together in Decision Process in Year 10

Full Cycle to Reaffirmation*

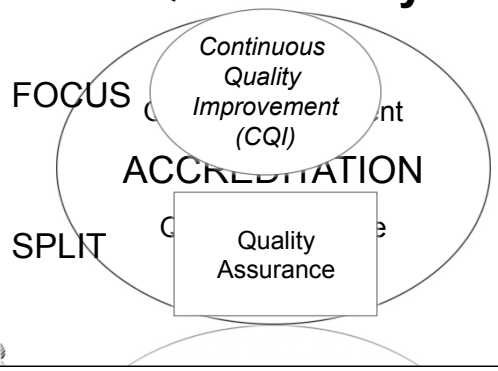
Pathway	Year 4 Review	Year 10 Review		Reaffirmation in Year 10
Standard	w/ visit Comp	w/ visit Comp	➡	✓
Open	w/o visit	w/ visit Comp	+ QI	✓

**Cycle is always 10 years in Standard and Open; no shortened cycles*

Elements of the Third Pathway

- *AQIP Pathway*

AQIP Pathway



AQIP Pathway

- Cycle length: 8 years
- Evaluation of assurance is embedded within ongoing evidence of continuous improvement
- Two forms of review: Systems Appraisals and Comprehensive Quality Reviews occur at various times within cycle

Eligible Institutions

- Accredited for at least 10 years
- No recent Change of Control
- No recent Commission sanction
- No extensive past or future monitoring
- No significant Commission concerns in areas such as leadership, student body, or review by governmental agency

AQIP Pathway

- Three sub-phases:
  - **Action Phase:** Action Project Updates (Annually)
  - **Strategic Phase:** Two Strategy Forums; Two Systems Portfolios & Appraisals
  - **Reaffirmation Phase:** Comprehensive Quality Review (one required, potential for a second)

AQIP Pathway

Years 1 through 4

Strategy Forum
Year 1 or 2

Systems Portfolio and Systems Appraisal
Year 3

Comp. Quality Review
Year 4…Possible

Years 5 through 8

Strategy Forum
Year 5 or 6

Systems Portfolio and Systems Appraisal
Year 7

Comp. Quality Review and Reaffirmation
Year 8…Required

Annual Project Filing / Annual Project Review

Proposed AQIP Cycle

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Enter Years								
First-Year Mentoring New AQIP Institutions Only	X							
Action Projects Filing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IBE Action Projects Response (See 1.1 on page 7)								
Strategy Forum	One Strategy Forum in Year 1 or 2			Select Year for next Strategy Forum	One Strategy Forum in Year 5 or 6			Select Year for next Strategy Forum
Systems Portfolio and Systems Appraisal			X				X	
Federal Compliance Review							X	
Comprehensive Quality Review				Possible Comprehensive Quality Review				Comprehensive Quality Review with final review of Criteria for Accreditation
Commission Action								Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Action Phase

x

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Enter Years								
First-Year Mentoring New AQIP Institutions Only	x							
Action Projects Filing and Action Projects Response (See 1.1 on page 7)	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**	x **X**

- First-Year Mentoring is intended for new AQIP institutions to initiate CQI activities.
- Institutions will continue to submit/update at least three Action Projects annually.
- Action projects reviewed annually

Strategic Phase

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Strategy Forum	One Strategy Forum in Year 1 or 2			Select Year for next Strategy Forum	One Strategy Forum in Year 5 or 6			Select Year for next Strategy Forum
Systems Portfolio and Systems Appraisal			X				X	

- New option of campus-based or Chicago-based Strategy Forums for experienced AQIP institutions.
- Systems Portfolios written to new AQIP Categories
- Systems Appraisal screens Portfolios and the Criteria for Accreditation.

AQIP Categories

1. Helping Students Learn
2. Meeting Student & Other Key Stakeholder Needs
3. Valuing Employees
4. Planning & Leading
5. Knowledge Management & Resource Stewardship
6. Quality Overview

Assurance & Reaffirmation

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Federal Compliance Review							X	
Comprehensive Quality Review				Possible Comprehensive Quality Review				Comprehensive Quality Review with final review for Action
Commission Action								Reaffirmation of Accreditation

- CQR replaces the Quality Checkup Visit.
- CQR verifies AQIP progress (CQI) & accreditation assurance; optional in Year 4
- Assurance through review of Criteria, Federal Compliance, and other components
- Reaffirmation occurs in Year 8

AQIP Pathway

- Criteria evaluated for purposes of continued accreditation in Year 8
- Criteria addressed proactively in Systems Portfolio and Appraisal; evaluated at the CQR
- Federal Compliance and other components (if required) conducted in conjunction with the CQR
- Transition map outlining upcoming events will be sent to each institution

Multiple Pathways

Greater Value to Institutions

ACCREDITATION

Greater Credibility to the Public