

Accreditation Pathway Recommendation

Context

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has reaffirmed Barton's accreditation status for the next ten year cycle. The last step in the Reaffirmation process is to declare an accreditation pathway with HLC.

Recommendation

Barton's Accreditation Committee recommends declaring with HLC the Standard Pathway.

Rationale

- The Standard Pathway can be described as a "basic" pathway with no requirement of a Quality Initiative as in Open Pathway.
- There is value having a team on campus for the mid-cycle review; this keeps an institution focused on accreditation.
- The face-to-face nature of interactions with a team is more valuable than the exchanging of reports (e.g. Year 4 Assurance Argument, HLC Final Report).
- Since the Federal Compliance review is no longer required at mid-cycle, the burden is mainly in campus preparation and also budgeting for the expense of a visit.

Reference

<https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/standard-and-open-pathways.html>