

Reaccreditation



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Dr. Johnny M. Moore, President

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NCA Update

A message from Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Dr. Annie Williams

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) Site Visit will take place November 3-5, 2014. During the spring semester 2014, Philander Smith College (PSC) is continuing on a period of Self-Study to pursue reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA). Through a careful Self-Study review of our entire institution, we will evaluate the degree to which the PSC embodies its full mission and represents its values. This second NCA Newsletter will address the following

frequent asked questions regarding Accreditation and the Self-Study Process in the following areas:

Why Self-study?	How does it work?	What is our study structure?	How long will it take?	What are the Accreditation Criteria?	Why Is the visit meaningful to me?	How long has PSC been accredited?	What happens during the Site Visit?	What happens after the Site visit?
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Philander Smith College would like to thank everyone who is participating in the College's Self-Study process for reaffirmation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA).

Accreditation is a process that helps to ensure high academic quality in accredited institutions. Approximately every 10 years. This process results in a Self-Study Report that includes PSC's self-evaluation with respect to fulfilling the five HLC/NCA Criteria for Accreditation.

WHY

Self-study?

- Demonstrates to the public that Philander Smith College (PSC) meets or exceeds national standards for quality and self-improvement
- Triggers critical self-analysis leading to quality improvement
- Provides an opportunity for consultation and advice from professionals from other higher education organizations
- Gives students access to federal financial aid programs



PSC Self-Study Goals

- Achieve reaffirmation of accreditation
- Analyze our Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results in support of continuous improvement
- Sustain an environment of assessment and evaluation
- Increase knowledge of who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

HOW

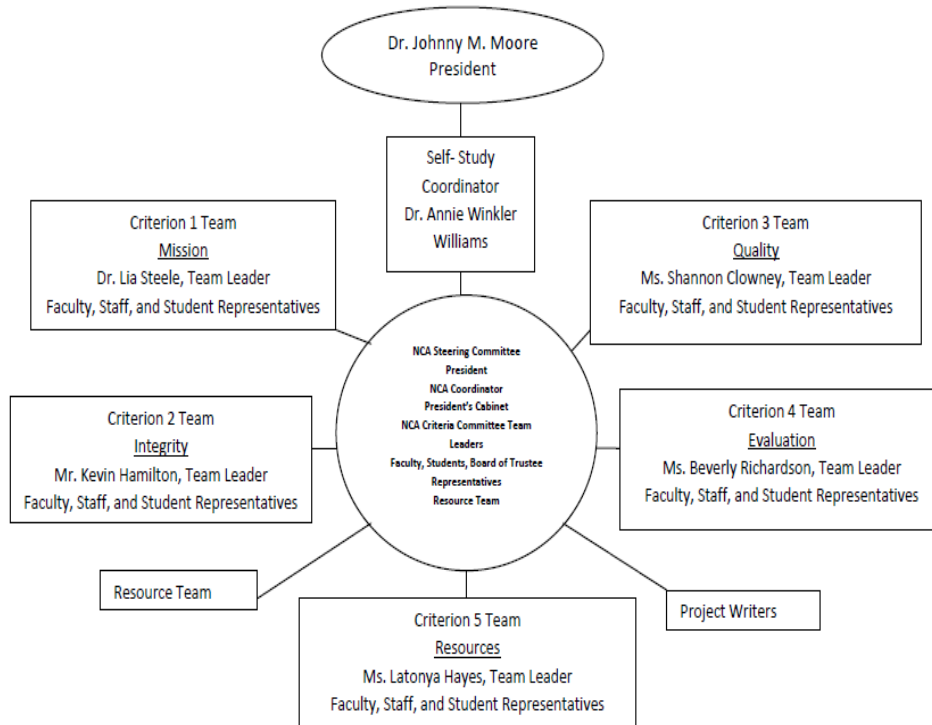
does it work?

The purpose of PSC's Self-Study is to evaluate our effectiveness in meeting our mission, goals, and outcomes through the use of data to analyze our Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results in support of continuous improvement.

What are the five HLC/NCA Accreditation Criteria?

1. **Mission**
2. **Integrity**
3. **Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support**
4. **Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement**
5. **Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness**

WHAT is our Self-Study Structure?



WHO takes part?

- Each of the following takes part in the process:
- Criterion Team Chairs
- Criterion Team Members
- Administration Liaison
- Self-Study Writers
- Resource Team
- Self-Study Coordinator

POWER BOOST

2013-2014

Mid-Process Events

- Criterion Teams create criterion drafts
- Criterion Teams edit and revise criterion drafts
- Attend HLC/NCA Annual Conference
- Input Data in PSC Task-Stream Management Information System
- Finalize Self-Study by May 15, 2014
- Prepare final copy of Self-Study and submit to the HLC/NCA Commission

POWER THROUGH

2014-2015

- Information Campaign for Site Visit
- Site Visit Scheduled for November 3-5, 2014
- Recognition and Appreciation Celebration Spring 2015

HOW

long as PSC be accredited?

PSC has been continuously accredited by the Higher Learning Commission NCA since 1949. Our last reaffirmation of accreditation was in 2007.

WHAT

happens during the site visit?

A team of evaluators representing HLC/NCA – all of whom are affiliated with an accredited college or university, will interview students, faculty, and staff; read and review documents and data; and tour the campus. The purpose of the visit is to validate the evidence and examples contained in the Self-Study report and to make recommendations to HLC/NCA concerning continued accreditation.

WHAT

happens after the visit?

After their three-day visit, the evaluation team will document their visit in an official report which will be submitted to the HLC/NCA and will include their observations and recommendations. Philander Smith College will receive the official report approximately six weeks after the visit. The team will make their recommendation to the HLC/NCA Commission that will make the final decision. A final decision on PSC's reaccreditation will be made to the President in approximately six months from the time of the Site visit.

HOW

long will it take?

Approximately two years.

WHY

is the visit meaningful to me?

As a member of the PSC community, you may be called on to work on Self-Study Committees and you also may be called on to meet with evaluators and share your knowledge of campus programs and efforts. Please familiarize yourself with the Self-study documents to ensure you are up to date with all items under review. Documents will be found on the PSC website at www.philander.edu.