



BEMIDJI

STATE UNIVERSITY



MINNESOTA STATE

Bemidji State University,
A member of Minnesota State

Preparing for the HLC Team Visit

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AVPAA

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Outline

- HLC Criteria
- Assurance Argument
- Purpose of the HLC Team Visit
- Your Preparation
- Q&A



HLC Criteria

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



Assurance Argument

A well-crafted, evidence-based, objective review of institutional performance explaining how the institution complies with the five criteria and their core components.

The Assurance Argument is the official, collective representation BSU provides to HLC regarding BSU's compliance with HLC expectations.

Available here: <https://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc/>



Purpose of the HLC Team Visit

1. Verify the claims made in the Assurance Argument
2. Follow up on questions raised in reviewing the Assurance Argument and Federal Compliance Review



Your Preparation for the Team Visit

Reflect on:

1. How the work you do is motivated by the institutional Mission Statement, anchored in the Shared Fundamental Values, and shaped by the Strategic Plan
2. How well the services you are providing are working, and how you know that
3. How you and your functional area improve operations or take advantage of new opportunities



BSU Mission Statement

We create an innovative, interdisciplinary and highly accessible learning environment committed to student success and a sustainable future for our communities, state and planet.

Through the transformative power of the liberal arts, education in the professions, and robust engagement of our students, we instill and promote service to others, preservation of the Earth, and respect and appreciation for the diverse peoples of our region and world.



Shared Fundamental Values

Students, through the sum of their educational experience at Bemidji State, will have multiple opportunities to learn about, experience, and reflect on the University's Shared Fundamental Values:

- Civic engagement and leadership
- International and multicultural understanding
- Belief in the power of the liberal arts
- Environmental stewardship

These values guide curriculum and services.



Strategic Plan 2018-2023:

Inspired by Place; Enriched by Diversity

Five Strategic Priorities

1. Build university capacity through distinguishing themes of place.
2. Increase engagement with American Indian communities to become a destination university.
3. Increase student engagement in campus life.
4. Strengthen BSU's academic identity by infusing its Shared Fundamental Values into all academic programs.
5. Create a university culture in which diversity is embraced and all members are safe, welcome, and validated.



Q&A

<https://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc/>



Highlights from Criterion 1: Mission

- The Strategic Plan and Master Academic Plan are both closely tied to our mission as are the goals each college developed over the past year.
- Student success and engagement are central to our mission and critical to everything we do as a university.
- The University's Diversity and Inclusion Plan, Strategic Enrollment Plan and the American Indian Recruitment and Retention Plans work together to help diversify our student body, faculty and staff.
- The University serves our region and is actively engaged with the communities around us.



Highlights from Criterion 2: Integrity

- Minnesota State system policies and procedures help the university to manage its affairs in an responsible and ethical manner.
- The unions our employees belong to help the university treat its employees fairly.
- The University is transparent in its dealings with students and the public.



Highlights from Criterion 3: Educational Quality, Resources, and Support

- All programs and courses have learning outcomes that guide the education of all of our students regardless of mode of delivery.
- The University demonstrates its commitment to scholarship through events like the annual Student Achievement Conference.
- Faculty and staff at BSU are highly qualified, supported in their work by the University, and committed to serving students.
- The University provides the services its students need to be successful.



Highlights from Criterion 4: Educational Evaluation and Improvement

- The University works systematically to improve the education and services we provide through regular assessment and program review activities. This has been one of our areas of greatest growth in the last ten years but remains an area where we need to continue to improve.
- The University is committed to improving retention, persistence, and completion rates for its programs and it is working. First fall retention rates last year were the highest in many years and the success rates for American Indian Students and Students of Color have improved significantly in the last 10 years.



Highlights from Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

- The University has a budgeting process that is transparent and supports its needs.
- The addition of new faculty lines (from 171 in 2011-12 to 205 this year) has bolstered the University's capacity to offer quality programs.
- The recent Memorial Hall Renovation and current Hagg-Sauer renovations are improving the University's facilities and modernizing our classroom spaces.
- The University is committed to sustainability and improvement in all areas of operations. This is evidenced by the energy saving investments made by our physical plant in recent years.



Some Identified Weaknesses

- Program reviews are sometimes delayed
- The large amount of overload/extra duty days taken on by faculty
- Lack of review of courses in liberal education
- Lack of systematic review of course outcomes and syllabi
- We do little to track faculty scholarship
- No policy on training and supporting GA's and adjuncts
- Imbalance in student services vs. instructional spending

