



Public Statement Regarding University of Phoenix Comprehensive Evaluation

The University of Phoenix is currently undergoing its regularly scheduled comprehensive evaluation for continued accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. The institution's last comprehensive review occurred in 2002. All accredited institutions are required to undergo such an evaluation at least once every ten years.

A comprehensive evaluation is a multi-layered process that requires the institution to prepare a self-study report demonstrating that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation. The Criteria outline standards of quality related to an institution's governance, business operations, academics, assessment, and services to students. Commission peer reviewers are primarily faculty and administrators from other accredited institutions of higher education, who have been selected and trained by the Commission to evaluate institutional compliance with the Criteria.

The first phase of the evaluation process, the team visit(s) to the institution, is now completed. To meet the Commission's obligation to ensure quality and to comply with federal regulations, the Commission's peer reviewers visited 148 selected University of Phoenix campuses and locations over a three-month period as part of the comprehensive review. The team held meetings with the institution's faculty, staff, and students engaged in online and on ground programs. Currently enrolled students also had the opportunity to provide comments through a Commission-sponsored survey conducted by an independent survey company.

In the coming months, the findings and evaluations of the review team will be presented to the Commission's decision-making body for final action. In keeping with Commission policy and practice, no outcomes of the evaluation are deemed official or made public until the conclusion of the process.

About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. The Commission is a private, nonprofit regional accrediting agency. The Commission's mission is to assure and advance the quality of higher learning. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The institutions the Commission accredits include public, private not-for-profit, and proprietary institutions at degree levels from the associate's through the doctoral degree level and from small, specialized institutions through large research universities.

Students, parents, and others from the general public with questions regarding the Commission's work should contact John Hausaman at the Higher Learning Commission by email at info@hlcommission.org or by phone at 312-263-0456.