



NORTHERN New Mexico College / HLC ACCREDITATION NEWSLETTER



How does an institution demonstrate that it meets HLC criteria through a "Mission-reflective lens?"

The college or university's mission is central to HLC's accreditation and assurance of academic quality. In determining whether institutions meet HLC requirements, HLC considers the institution's mission. An accredited institution demonstrates how it meets HLC requirements through a mission-reflective lens.

HLC's requirements reflect its values of academic quality. These values include academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of knowledge, as well as providing opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within an institution's mission and for the constituencies it serves.



HLC CRITERION 2: INTEGRITY

The Criteria for Accreditation convey the standards of quality by which HLC determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

SUMMARY of NNMC Assurance Argument: CRITERION 2. INTEGRITY:

NMMC demonstrates integrity and ethical conduct through transparent communication, accountable governance, and responsible academic practices.

The College accurately presents itself to students and the public via its redesigned website and online catalog, which offer user-friendly access to information on academics, student services, financial aid, and compliance data. The site includes accreditation details, program accreditations, cost of attendance, consumer information, and student policies.

NNMC's Board of Regents operates independently, guided by bylaws, state law, and public accountability measures, including open meetings, ethics training, and annual financial disclosures. The Board

Criterion 2 Summary continued next page

HLC Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

■ **2.A. INTEGRITY:** Actions taken by the institution's governing board, administration, faculty, and staff demonstrate adherence to established policies and procedures.

■ **2.B. TRANSPARENCY:** The institution presents itself accurately and completely to students and the public with respect to its educational programs and any claims it makes related to the educational experience.

■ **2.C. BOARD GOVERNANCE:** In discharging its fiduciary duties, the institution's governing board is free from undue external influence and empowered to act in the best interests of the institution, including the students it serves.

■ **2.D. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:** The institution supports academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of knowledge as integral to high-quality teaching, learning and research.

■ 2.E. KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION, DISCOVERY AND APPLICATION:

The institution adheres to policies and procedures that ensure responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



SEPT 8

HLC STUDENT OPINION
SURVEY



OCT 20

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT
LOCK DATE



NOV 5

CAMPUS
CLEANUP



NOV 17

SITE
VISIT

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT



MISSION is foundational to an institution's curriculum, instructional activities and the success of its students.

Mission further informs an institution's research and innovation pursuits, its community engagement activities and services, its role within the higher education ecosystem, its student body, and its decisions regarding operations and resource allocations. An institution's distinctive mission is the cornerstone around which the institution's effectiveness, integrity and commitment to continuous improvement are evaluated.

When demonstrating that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation, an institution has the opportunity to reflect on the significance of its distinctive mission as well as across the wider higher education landscape. ■

HLC CRITERION 1: MISSION
The Criteria for Accreditation convey the standards of quality by which HLC determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

SUMMARY of NNMC Assurance Argument: CRITERION 1: MISSION
NNMC aligns its programs and operations closely with its mission to serve the community and support student success.

Adopted in 2024, its new Mission/Vision emphasizes student empowerment and community development, particularly for its Hispanic and Indigenous populations. As a regional comprehensive institution connected deeply to place, culture, and innovation, NNMC strives to become a beacon of higher education and opportunity for all.

NNMC's inclusive strategic planning involves students, faculty, staff, and community, guiding decisions from academics to resource allocation. It designs curricula aligned with student goals and regional workforce needs, partnering with LAMC for specialized training. NNMC is also expanding trade education and community programs to support underserved populations and promote lifelong learning.

NNMC incorporates student engagement into all aspects of college life, providing and reach to rural, first-generation, and underserved students.

HLC Criterion 1. Mission:
The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

Through these diverse collaborations and activities, NNMC demonstrates its commitment to its mission and the public good, showcasing its holistic approach to education, community outreach, and service. ■

An institution's distinctive mission will inform how it demonstrates that it meets the following CORE COMPONENTS of CRITERION 1.

- 1.A. Mission Statement: The institution's mission statement is clear, concise, and publicly accessible.
- 1.B. Mission and Vision: The institution's mission and vision statements are aligned and guide its operations.
- 1.C. Mission and Values: The institution's mission and values are integrated into its curriculum, co-curriculum, and community engagement.
- 1.D. Mission and Assessment: The institution's mission and values are used to inform its assessment and improvement efforts.

COUNTDOWN!

SEP 8 HLC STUDENT SURVEY	OCT 20 ASSURANCE ARGUMENT LOOK DATE	NOV 5 CAMPUS CLEANUP	NOV 17-18 HLC VISIT
13 days	53 days	71 days	83 days

Familiarize yourself with our **ASSURANCE ARGUMENT**.
Read the newsletters & **MASTER PLAN**.

NORTHERN New Mexico College
HLC ACCREDITATION 2025 MASTER PLAN

Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, President
NORTHERN New Mexico College

Students! Participate in the **HLC STUDENT SURVEY** on September 8.



Compete in the NNMC **SIDEWALK ART CHALLENGE**.
Prizes awarded!



Participate in the college-wide **CAMPUS CLEANUP** in November.



Summary of **CRITERION 2. INTEGRITY**: continued

avoids undue influence from external entities and maintains fiduciary oversight while delegating day-to-day management to the President and administration.

Academic freedom and freedom of expression are protected through institutional policies and faculty agreements, which support inquiry and the pursuit of truth. NNMC promotes academic honesty, ethical research, and information literacy, with policies that address plagiarism, copyright, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence. Oversight bodies like the Institutional Review Board and Animal Care Committees ensure compliance with federal regulations and humane research practices.

Student conduct and computing policies reinforce ethical behavior and integrity in the academic environment. Together, these practices uphold NNMC's commitment to ethical, responsible, and transparent institutional conduct. ■

SIGN UP FOR MOCK VISITS IN OCTOBER

Our HLC Peer Reviewers will be conducting forums on each of the four Core Components during the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation visit on November 17-18, 2025.

To help us prepare, we'll be sharing practice questions and holding "mock visits" in October.

■ Mock visits help us build confidence with the kinds of questions the Peer Reviewers may ask.

■ Mock visits are a great way to practice talking about Northern and our Mission, and how our work contributes to student success.

■ The process involves faculty, staff and students, so everyone feels engaged and prepared.

■ Think of it as a friendly rehearsal to help us shine and succeed!