UNIVERSITY PREPARES FOR ACCREDITATION VISIT
Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is intended to assure constituents and the public of the quality and integrity of higher education institutions like the University of Notre Dame and the programs offered, and to help those institutions and programs improve. These outcomes are achieved through rigorous internal and external review processes during which the institution is evaluated against a common set of standards.

Each institution is asked to demonstrate it meets the HLC’s clearly stated criteria, common institutional practices and obligations, and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the University will continue to meet them in the future. This evidence is compiled in a comprehensive self-study report.

WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT TO ND?
The self-study is a unique opportunity for the University to take stock of itself – celebrating its successes and discovering areas for continued improvement. It is a process during which administrators, faculty, and staff make an intensive review of the entire University, documenting its strengths and its challenges. These processes help the University improve our performance as an educational institution.

Accreditation ensures students the ability to transfer credits between accredited schools, and some graduate schools only accept students with degrees from accredited schools. Only accredited institutions are eligible to receive federal funds for higher education, including student financial aid and research funding.

WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ND ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY REPORT COMPILATION?
Over the past two years, more than 120 members of the Notre Dame community worked collaboratively on subcommittees to prepare a comprehensive self-study report in preparation for the HLC evaluation team visit.

Before the self-study report writing began, subcommittee members met regularly, interviewed key constituents on campus, research relevant data and reviewed important documents.

WHEN IS THE ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT?
The HLC will send an accreditation evaluation team to campus from March 31 through April 2, to review the University’s self-study report, its resources and to interview members of the faculty, staff and student body.

DOES THIS SELF-STUDY AFFECT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY?
All aspects of the University are represented in the self-study. Although different colleges, programs and departments may have specialized professional accreditation processes, this accreditation is for the entire University.

You are encouraged to share this information with your colleagues and students. It is important that we have a broad level of awareness throughout campus about the evaluation team’s visit and purpose.

Thank you in advance for welcoming the HLC accreditation evaluation team to Notre Dame.

MEETING WITH THE HLC EVALUATION TEAM
After reviewing the University’s self-study report, the visiting evaluation team will determine which individuals, representing which areas of the institution that it will meet with during the site visit. In past visits, the site visit team requested meetings with representatives from more than 30 units on campus, ranging from deans, officers, chairs, committee members, students and student organization leaders, along with others from throughout the academy and various support departments.

The Office of the Provost will contact individuals who have been requested by the site visit team. Individuals will be expected to provide as much flexibility as possible in order to accommodate the evaluation team’s requests and schedule.

Visit the Provost’s website for a list FAQs.