



Higher Learning Commission

A commission of the North Central Association

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January 14, 2015

Dr. Bettie Truitt
Interim President
Black Hawk College
6600 34th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265-5899

Dear Dr. Truitt:

The interim report you submitted to our office has now been reviewed. A staff analysis of the report is enclosed.

On behalf of the Commission, staff accepts the report on development of program-level learning outcomes. An additional interim report is due on March 1, 2017 on the development and systematic implementation of program level learning outcomes. The institution's next reaffirmation of accreditation is scheduled for 2021-2022.

Also enclosed is a copy of the institution's Statement of Affiliation Status, which reflects the actions taken by the Commission. For more information on the interim report process contact Lil Nakutis, Accreditation Processes Specialist, at lnakutis@hlcommission.org. Your HLC staff liaison is Barbara Johnson (bjohnson@hlcommission.org); (800) 621-7440 x 129.

Thank you.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

STAFF ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

DATE: January 14, 2015

STAFF: Barbara Johnson

REVIEWED BY: Steven Kapelke

INSTITUTION: Black Hawk College, Moline, IL

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Bettie Truitt, Interim President

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION RE: REPORT: An interim report due 12/1/2014 report on development of program-level learning outcomes (core component 4B).

ITEMS ADDRESSED IN REPORT: The office of the Commission received the institution's report on the above topic on 11/25/2014.

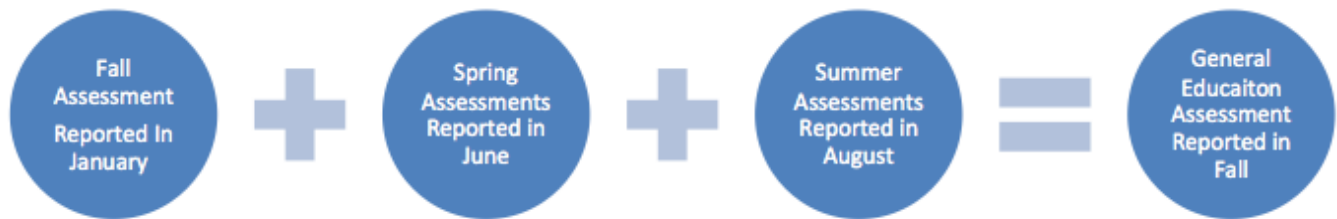
STAFF ANALYSIS: In February 2014, Black Hawk College (BHC) underwent a review by an AQIP Review Panel for the purposes of reaffirmation of accreditation. The panel recommended reaffirmation and recommended also that the College be required to submit an interim report on program level learning outcomes. The panel's rationale states this: "The panel notes that Systems Appraisal and Quality Checkup Teams agree that the college has strengths in this area but recognize a need for greater emphasis on developing program level outcomes. It is important for the institution to make this a priority and strengthen this area in a timely fashion."

The institution's interim report on program-level assessment provides a detailed description of the steps taken by the College to improve their processes on program-level assessment in both general education and their associate degree programs. Subsequent to the Quality Checkup Visit in October 2013, the institution's faculty and administration participated in a new Action Project: "HLC Response Team Planning Intensive (RTPI) revisiting the General Education Learning Outcomes Grid..." The grid, which was created in 1992, was last revised in 2008.

General Education Learning Outcomes Assessment: During the Fall 2013 semester, the RPTI Action Project Team, comprised of faculty members, staff members and administrators, revised the general education/core curriculum learning outcomes. These outcomes are organized around five strands, each of which contains an additional 2-4 learning outcomes; these outcomes are linked (mapped) to the courses within the curriculum where the students are responsible for meeting them.

The report states that once the outcomes were revised and mapped, the RPTI, with assistance from the Faculty Senate Student Learning Committee, devised a plan for collecting and analyzing assessment data. The plan assigns responsibility for general education learning outcomes assessment to the academic departments. Specifically, the department's faculty and chair are responsible for developing the appropriate measurement tools, determining at what level—on a five-point scale—the students are meeting the outcomes, and providing a score for each outcome on their respective strands of the Grid.

The scores are submitted to the appropriate dean and the RPTI Action Project Team, which compiles the scores--with analysis--and establishes a timeline for sharing the assessment results with the institution as a whole. The first cycle of data has been collected, collated and evaluated and is scheduled to be available institution-wide in Spring 2015. Below is a graphic representation of the annual cycle for general education assessment provided in the report:



Program Level Assessment: As part of the institution’s 2013 Program Review revision, the College sought to improve the learning outcomes assessment cycle, focusing on program-level goals and assessment plans. BHC is now prepared to implement the revised program review on a new five-year cycle. The proposed Academic Program Review five-year schedule looks like this:

Program Review Improved Cycle	
Year One	Develop assessment plan for implementation of previous year’s Program Review recommendations
Year Two	Define program purpose, goals and program level student learning outcomes
Year Three	Identify assessment measurements, achievement targets, collect data and write findings
Year Four	Define/redefine measurements, achievement targets, collect data and write findings
Year Five	Complete comprehensive Program Review Report

Consistent with the graphic above, the institution’s strategic plan has identified the development of program-level student learning outcomes as a key strategic planning objective for 2015. In that regard, all College certificate and associate degree programs will identify and assess program-level learning outcomes during 2015. (The graphic isn’t clear as to which academic year—e.g. 2014-15—corresponds to the years in the cycle. This should be clarified for internal and external audiences.)

Other planned initiatives related to learning outcomes assessment and Academic Program review include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Training faculty members in data use and analysis for the purposes of assessment. New professional development opportunities are being reviewed.
- Linking each student learning outcome to the College’s general education objectives

- Using WEAVE software as a repository for program-level assessment data and a means to integrate assessment data into the strategic plan.
- Offering assessment workshops and other presentations at Assembly Days in addition to workshops presented by the Teaching and Learning Center.
- Developing a standardized data reporting form for the submission of assessment data

STAFF COMMENT: Black Hawk College's interim report provides evidence that the institution has responded appropriately to the issue regarding the development of program-level learning outcomes. The report's narrative is thorough and the appendices provide generally effective supporting detail. The description of the General Education assessment system suggests a process that is thoughtfully designed—though perhaps still a work in progress--and one that appears to have strong support within the institution.

However, the material available regarding co-curricular assessment is sparse, and the College's "revised" plan for the development and implementation of student learning outcomes at the program level is in its early stages, so few details are yet available. The report indicates, for example, that year two of the revised five-year cycle is when program-level outcomes will be articulated, with "measurement and achievement targets..." to be identified in year three. This schedule seems reasonable, and based on the information available in the report, within the capacity of the institution. Given the relative newness of this plan and the institution's having only recently joined the academy, the Commission will ask for additional monitoring—in the form of an interim report--regarding the development of program level outcomes.

STAFF ACTION: Accept the report on development of program-level learning outcomes. An additional interim report is due on March 1, 2017 on the development and systematic implementation of program level learning outcomes. The institution's next reaffirmation of accreditation is scheduled for 2021-2022.

STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION STATUS

Black Hawk College
6600 34th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265-5899

Affiliation Status:

Candidate: N/A
Accreditation: 10/10/1986

Nature of Organization

***Control:
Degrees Awarded:***

Public
Associates, Certificate

Conditions of Affiliation:

***Stipulations on Affiliation
Status:***

Prior Commission approval is required for substantive change as stated in Commission policy.

***Approval of New
Additional Locations:***

Prior Commission approval required.

***Approval of Distance and
Correspondence Courses
and Programs:***

Approved for distance education courses and programs. The institution has not been approved for correspondence education.

Accreditation Activities:

AQIP, Quality Checkup: 2021 - 2022

AQIP, Systems Appraisal:
AQIP, Systems Appraisal: 11/01/2020
Monitoring, Interim Report on development and systematic implementation of program learning outcomes: 03/01/2017

Summary of Commission Review

Year of Last Reaffirmation of Accreditation: 2013 - 2014

Year for Next Reaffirmation of Accreditation: 2021 - 2022

Last Date of Information Change: 01/14/2015

STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION STATUS

Accreditation Note:

* Note on date of accreditation: accredited as a single entity in 1986. System includes the formerly separately-accredited campuses: Black Hawk College-East Campus, first accredited in 1975, and Black Hawk College-Quad-Cities Campus, first accredited in 1951.

Name Change:

Academy Participation:

Participating in the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning.

