

ACCREDITATION

PURPOSE

This policy aims to establish clear guidelines to ensure the College maintains the standards of excellence considered appropriate for continued affiliation and accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission.

POLICY STATEMENT

Edison State Community College will strive to meet and maintain the Criteria for Accreditation set forth by the Commission. The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality that determine whether Edison State merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. The College will continually analyze its operations and offerings through an assurance argument, evidence, and evaluation visits by a peer review team of peer corps members and other agencies. The College will demonstrate its capacity to assure the standards, processes, and the will for quality throughout the institution and its educational offerings.

Degree programs requiring approval by a specialized, state, national, or professional accreditation agency will be designed and operated to meet the requirements of such agency. The College will strive for and maintain accreditation of individual programs within the College's resources, the needs of the College, and stakeholders.

PERSONS AFFECTED

All Edison State Community College stakeholders.

DEFINITIONS

ACCREDITATION

The recognition from an accrediting agency that an institution maintains a certain level of educational standards.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

An institutional accreditor recognized by the US Department of Education. HLC accredits degree-granting institutions of higher education in the United States.

CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

The framework for determining an institution's accreditation.

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT

A narrative in which the institution explains how it meets HLC's Criteria for Accreditation, supported by linked documents in the Evidence File.

PEER REVIEW TEAM

A group of peer reviewers conducting an evaluation on behalf of HLC.

PEER CORPS

The group of faculty, administrators, and public members from within HLC's membership who evaluate whether institutions are meeting the Criteria for Accreditation and participate in HLC decision-making bodies.