

# HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

## REAFFIRMATION VISIT: March 30-31, 2026

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

### Criterion 1 & 2 Open Forum March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026; 10:15am-11:15am

The **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** serves as Iowa State's institutional accreditor, evaluating the institution as a whole. Accreditation, among other things, signals the academic quality and fiscal integrity of an institution, along with fulfilling eligibility requirements for a university to receive federal financial aid. The accreditation process is a 10-year cycle, culminating in the creation of an assurance argument and a campus visit. While on campus visits, review teams conduct open forums to hear directly from campus and further explore the information given to them via the assurance argument document.

#### Open Forum Etiquette

To ensure smooth functioning of the open forums, please follow the guidelines below:

- 1) Briefly introduce yourself before you begin your answer (name, role/title, unit)
- 2) Keep your answer concise and focused on the question asked
- 3) Limit the length of your response and monitor your participation; many in the room will be interested in giving input, so be ready to "share the mic"

#### HLC's Criteria for Accreditation

<b>CRITERION 1. MISSION</b> The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.
<b>1.A. Mission Alignment</b> The institution's educational programs, enrollment profile and scope of operations align with its publicly articulated mission.
<b>1.B. Mission and Public Good</b> The institution's operation of the academic enterprise demonstrates its commitment to serving the public good.
<b>1.C. Mission and Diversity of Society</b> The institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.
<b>CRITERION 2. INTEGRITY: Ethical and Responsible Conduct</b> In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.
<b>2.A. Integrity</b> Actions taken by the institution's governing board, administration, faculty and staff demonstrate adherence to established policies and procedures.
<b>2.B. Transparency</b> 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.
<b>2.C. Board Governance</b> 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.
<b>2.D. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression</b> The institution supports academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of knowledge as integral to high-quality teaching, learning and research.
<b>2.E. Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery and Application</b> The institution adheres to policies and procedures that ensure responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge.