

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

REAFFIRMATION VISIT: March 30-31, 2026

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

Criterion 3 Open Forum

March 30th, 2026; 1:00pm-2:00pm

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

CRITERION 3. TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. The rigor and quality of each educational program is consistent regardless of modality, location or other differentiating factors.

3.A. Educational Programs

The institution maintains learning goals and outcomes that reflect a level of rigor commensurate with college-level work, including by program level and the content of each of its educational programs.

3.B. Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry

The institution's educational programs engage students in collecting, analyzing and communicating information; in practicing modes of intellectual inquiry or creative work; and in developing skills adaptable to changing environments.

3.C. Sufficiency of Faculty and Staff

The institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services.

3.D. Support for Student Learning and Resources for Teaching

The institution provides student support services that address the needs of its student populations, as well as the teaching resources and infrastructure necessary for student success.

3.E. Assessment of Student Learning

The institution improves the quality of educational programs based on its assessment of student learning.

3.F. Program Review

The institution improves its curriculum based on periodic program review.

3.G. Student Success Outcomes

The institution's student success outcomes demonstrate continuous improvement, taking into account the student populations it serves and benchmarks that reference peer institutions.