

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

REAFFIRMATION VISIT: March 30-31, 2026

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

Criterion 4 Open Forum March 31st, 2026; 9:30am-10:30am

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 4. SUSTAINABILITY: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures and planning enable it to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational programs, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

4.A. Effective Administrative Structures

The institution's administrative structures are effective and facilitate collaborative processes such as shared governance; data-informed decision making; and engagement with internal and external constituencies as appropriate.

4.B. Resource Base and Sustainability

The institution's financial and personnel resources effectively support its current operations. The institution's financial management balances short-term needs with long-term commitments and ensures its ongoing sustainability.

4.C. Planning for Quality Improvement

The institution engages in systematic strategic planning for quality improvement. It relies on data, integrating its insights from enrollment forecasts, financial capacity, student learning assessment, institutional operations and the external environment.