

# Preparing for Our Reaffirmation for Accreditation

One of the key components of the re-accreditation process is the Assurance Argument. Miami University's Assurance Argument provides a comprehensive demonstration of its alignment with the criteria for continued accreditation, as defined by the Higher Learning Commission. This document reflects Miami's commitment to academic excellence, ethical governance, public service, and continuous improvement.

The summary below outlines key highlights from the institution's self-assessment:

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## 1. Mission and Integrity

- **Mission Alignment:** Miami's mission, revised in 2024, emphasizes liberal arts, student success, public service, diversity, and a transformative learning environment. It is consistently reflected in strategic planning, academic programming, and institutional operations.
- **Mission & Public Good:** The university actively serves the public through partnerships with the Myaamia tribe, K-12 schools, businesses, and civic organizations. Initiatives like the ASPIRE office, Advancement Manufacturing Workforce & Development Hub, and College@Elm advance regional economic development.
- **Mission & Diversity of Society:** Miami prioritizes inclusive excellence through strategic recruitment and retention strategies, climate surveys, and university-wide cultural engagement initiatives such as the Constructive Dialogues Initiative and the Freedom Summer Celebration. It promotes civic and global learning through its Miami Plan and other curricula, education abroad, student organizations, faculty development, and globally-oriented research.

## 2. Integrity and Ethical Conduct

- **Integrity & Transparency:** Miami maintains robust systems for communicating accurate information to the public, students, and stakeholders via bulletins, policy libraries, and consumer information pages. Institutional data and financial practices are transparent and regularly audited.
- **Board Governance:** The university's Board of Trustees operates within legal mandates and ethical frameworks and participates actively in the life of the University. Policies are in place to manage conflicts of interest and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
- **Academic Freedom:** The university promotes inclusive decision-making through University Senate, shared governance and numerous policies which affirm academic

freedom. The Miami Plan and academic programs advance the power and joy of intellectual inquiry.

- **Knowledge Acquisition & Discovery:** Miami fosters an environment of inquiry through its liberal education plan, support for student and faculty research, focus on responsible conduct in research, and promotion and tenure criteria.

### 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

- **Educational Programs:** Miami offers a wide array of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs that have clear learning outcomes and multiple quality assurances.
- **Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry:** The Four Pillars underpinning the recently revised Miami Plan (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and social engagement) prompt all Miami students to tackle authentic problems facing our world today.
- **Sufficiency of Faculty & Staff:** Miami prides itself on the level of support that faculty and staff provide to students, including academic interventions and close faculty-student interactions. Quality faculty and staff are assured through rigorous appointment, professional development and continuous performance measures.
- **Support for Student Learning:** Student support is extensive, including advising, mental & clinical health services, tutoring, career development and accessibility programs.
- **Assessment Practices:** Miami has well-established assessment of student learning outcomes at the program and institutional levels. These assessments inform curricular and pedagogical improvements.
- **Program Review:** Miami engages in ongoing data-driven evaluation of its academic programs and departments via the Academic Program Evaluation, Improvement & Prioritization (APEIP) process and the recently-instituted Department Planning & Improvement process.
- **Student Success:** Guided by Miami's Completion Plan, the University offers a wide range of success initiatives – including early alert progress reports, Winter Thrive, Spring Launch, GradU8, and a comprehensive advising approach – to achieve outstanding success outcomes for its students.

### 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning

- **Effective Administrative Structures:** Miami promotes shared governance through its deliberative bodies such as Board of Trustees, President's Executive Committee, University Senate and divisional and departmental governance documents as well as the wide-ranging involvement of faculty, students, staff and other constituents in key decisions and initiatives such as the revision of the mission and the development of MiamiTHRIVE.
- **Resource Base & Sustainability:** The institution demonstrates sound fiscal management with comprehensive budget oversight, investment policies, and transparent reporting. Its financial practices support long-term sustainability. Miami invests in personnel development and maintains high-quality facilities and technology infrastructure to support its academic mission.
- **Future-Focused Planning:** The university incorporates demographic, economic, and educational trends in its planning efforts, ensuring readiness to meet evolving student and

societal needs. Informed by an in-depth environmental scan, the university's strategic plan, *MiamiTHRIVE*, outlines priority areas including experiential learning, inclusivity, research excellence, and affordability. Continuous improvement is embedded in institutional practices.

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**Conclusion:** Miami University presents a compelling assurance argument for reaffirmation of accreditation. The document illustrates a vibrant academic community driven by a clear mission, ethical governance, student-centered values, and strategic vision. With demonstrated excellence in education, public service, and continuous improvement, Miami affirms its position as a leading institution dedicated to fostering learning, discovery, and societal impact.