



Steering Committee for the Oversight of HLC and Legislative Academic Compliance

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) has identified and prioritized the need for coordinated oversight of institutional policies and practices with respect to Federal, State, and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) compliance. A committee will be convened and charged with the oversight of HLC and legislative academic compliance for the following reasons.

- The scope of Federal and State legislation is vast, complex, and rapidly changing.
- The consequences for violating legislative mandates can be severe as seen by the sanctions and accreditation notices being placed on higher education institutions across the country.
- Academic legislative compliance encompasses many different units on campus which necessitates the need to centralize communication and discussion while simultaneously being mindful of the need to meet disparate campus requirements.
- Broad campus-wide dissemination of information can be challenging. The inclusiveness of the steering committee is meant to bolster campus communication in the following areas: awareness of legislative mandates, consequences of inattention to legislative compliance, results of reviews of UNC's policies and practices relative to external requirements, and actions taken by the steering committee to address such compliance as may arise.

Steering Committee Charge

Charge:

- monitor HLC requirements and expectations as well as State and Federal legislative mandates for academic compliance
- monitor current UNC policies, procedures, guidelines and practices for adherence to HLC and legislative mandates
- identify and prioritize HLC and legislative academic compliance issues
- identify institutional barriers to compliance such as a lack of policy, policy gaps, or structural impediments
- develop, appropriately vet, and subsequently implement plans to resolve compliance issues which may include the development of *ad hoc* topic-specific committees made up of appropriate stakeholders
- build campus-wide awareness of academic compliance issues and the need to address those issues
- be a point of contact for faculty and staff when compliance issues or questions arise

Scope of Review:

The purview of this committee will extend to the components of academic programs, academic program delivery, academic reporting, and student academic progress that are impacted by federal, state, and/or accreditation legislation or mandates.

Membership: The committee will include, at a minimum,

- Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs, Committee Chair
- Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance
- Chair of the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee
- Dean of Students
- Dean/Associate Dean of the Graduate School
- Director of Assessment
- Director of Financial Aid
- Executive Director of Extended Campus
- Registrar
- Title IX Coordinator and Equity Officer
- Others as relevant to specific topics

Meetings: As often as needed as determined by the Chair to address the committee's charge, normally once a month.

Documentation: Minutes will be made available campus-wide via the Academic Compliance webpage out of the Provost's office.

Dissemination: Committee members will provide reports, either verbal or written, to their associated units as appropriate. Chair of the Academic Policies Committee will provide reports to the Academic Policies Committee and the Faculty Senate. A designated committee member will communicate with the appropriate campus unit, with notification to the associated unit leadership, when a compliance issue requires action.