

the article below. Welcome Marshall and Java!



Accreditation

Regional Accreditation

Spring 2025 Recap: Higher Learning Commission Year 4 Assurance Review

WMU successfully completed its 2025 four-year Assurance Review with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and was reaffirmed as continuing to meet all accreditation criteria with no monitoring or conditions. The Year 4 Assurance Argument and accompanying evidence—covering institutional updates from 2021 through spring 2025—was submitted in March 2025 and reviewed by an HLC peer review team.

This outcome reflects a year-long collaborative effort by the Year 4 Assurance Committee along with a dedicated core team and more than 60 colleagues and contributors across the campus community.

To learn more and stay informed about any future activities related to our HLC accreditation relationship, please visit wmich.edu/hlc.

Specialized Program Accreditation

Seeking New Accreditation?

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness provides assistance during the

identification and discovery processes for proposed and existing programs to seek specialized program accreditation, especially for those programs whose graduates will sit for certification or licensure. Academic units intending to seek new accreditation for proposed or existing programs must contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness prior to applying to the accreditor.

Tips for Preparing to Initiate a New Accreditation Cycle

As a reminder, all academic programs preparing to initiate a new accreditation cycle must contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at the beginning of the process. Accredited programs seeking an extension on their reaccreditation cycle must first obtain written permission from the department chair/school director, college dean, and provost prior to submitting the request for extension to the accreditor. Please contact [Cathe Murphy](#), to discuss your accreditor's process and timeline for document submission.

Accreditation Fee Reimbursement

Beginning July 1, 2025, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) reimburses RUs for 50% of its annual maintenance of accreditation fees once the RU has paid the initial invoice and submitted a request to IE for reimbursement consideration. "Maintenance of accreditation fees" are limited to those fees published by the accreditor that are specifically identified as "annual fees." IE also reimburses 50% of separate membership fees in professional organizations that are associated with the accreditor when that membership is a specific requirement for maintaining accreditation.

Please note that reimbursement is not a guarantee, but rather a long-standing practice of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to encourage compliance with HLC's requirement that all programs that can be accredited are accredited. With the university's move to an SRM model, costs associated with specialized program accreditation continue to be the responsibility of the college overseeing the program.

To request a reimbursement, please email [Cathe Murphy](#), and include your fund 11 department number, an electronic copy of the original invoice, and proof that the payment was initiated from your department (e.g., receipt, Procard statement, signed voucher, etc.).

Assessment

Assessment Toolkit

Have a question about outcomes assessment? Looking for new tools and/or ideas? Take a look at the Assessment Toolkit! This online resource was designed to provide you with comprehensive information to assist with every step of the assessment cycle. Whether you're looking for guidance on best practices, templates, examples, research articles, and much more, this toolkit was designed to help. We continue to update this resource to keep it relevant. Let us know what you think, we'd love your feedback! Send your comments, questions and suggestions to [Karen Stokes Chapo](#).

[View Toolkit](#)

In Case You Missed It - Measures of Success Session Recordings

Last spring, the University Assessment Steering Committee offered up two excellent assessment professional development sessions through the annual Measures of Success Series. [Dr. Jay Roberts](#), Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Warren Wilson College, shared an informative and spirited talk regarding ideas for assessing experiential learning, both in and outside the classroom.

We also had an insightful and uplifting panel discussion shared by three of the first cohort recipients of the Experience-Driven Learning Grants, who shared along with their student colleagues about how they incorporated experience-driven learning in their courses, how they assessed the outcomes, and the key takeaways from both groups. For anyone who might be considering incorporating this type of learning experience for your students, this is for you!

You can access the recordings and presentation materials on this website: [Measures of Success 2025](#). Contact [Karen Stokes Chapo](#) with questions.

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) - the results are in!

This past spring, WMU participated in both the [NSSE](#) and the [FSSE](#). We invited first-year students and seniors to take the NSSE and tell us about their

learning, classroom and co-curricular experiences, interactions with the campus community and more. The FSSE invited all instructors of record to share their perceptions and expectations for student learning and development.

Together these surveys can provide us with holistic insights about the college experiences of our students, the extent to which they engage in educationally effective activities, and their perceptions about the institutional environment that support their learning. These insights can guide us to areas for improvements, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Click on the links to review the 2025 [NSSE results](#), and [FSSE results](#). If you'd like to learn more, or have any questions, [contact us](#).

Awards and Course Evaluation

Student Course Ratings Schedule for 2025-2026

The Student Course Ratings period for the upcoming academic year has been scheduled. During the open ratings period, students will receive email notifications and can complete their course evaluations through the Anthology Student Course Ratings System (SCRS). Faculty are encouraged to remind students to complete evaluations before the closing date.

Activity	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer I 2026	Summer II 2026
Open Ratings Period	Monday, 11/24/25	Monday, 4/13/26	Monday, 6/22/26	Wednesday, 8/12/26
Close Ratings Period	Friday, 12/12/25	Friday, 5/1/26	Wednesday, 7/1/26	Friday, 8/21/26
Final Grades Due	Tuesday, 12/16/25	Tuesday, 5/5/26	Tuesday, 7/7/26	Tuesday, 8/25/26
Ratings Results Available	Friday, 12/19/25	Friday, 5/8/26	Friday, 7/10/26	Friday, 8/28/26

Faculty can access their reports once grades have been submitted. For questions regarding access or system functionality, please contact Tonya Dean,

SCRS Administrator, at tonya.dean@wmich.edu or visit [Students Course Ratings System information](#).

Integrated Program Review

Academic Program Review

The spring 2025 APR Provost's Review phase is expected to be completed by December 31, 2025. Self-study participants, participating chairs and directors, and participating deans will continue to have "read-only" access to their program review reports during this phase. Once all reviews are completed, Anthology's Program Review platform will be closed, and all reports will be downloaded as PDFs to the Integrated Program Review (IPR) Online Repository. (For more information, and to access the site, [click here](#)). In the repository, all reports will remain available, in perpetuity, to all WMU community members with an active Bronco NetID.

WMU will launch the second five-year cycle of APR during spring 2026 using Envisio strategic solutions. During November 2025, Academic Affairs is putting together a working group of faculty, administrators, and staff to determine adjustments to streamline the reporting process and improve ongoing engagement. The APR Working Group will meet during December 2025 to prepare for the January 2026 launch of the updated process.

Learner Support Review Process

The Learner Support Review (LSR) Working Group has completed its work preparing for the new Learner Support Review process. For the purpose of review, WMU defines learner support as “any unit, department, program, resource, or service that contributes to the education, growth, and development of learners outside their academic programs.” These offerings typically set goals for learner development, and track and measure learning and process outcomes to test progress toward those goals.

During the calendar year 2025, the Working Group sponsored four learner supports to participate in a pilot of the new process. Participants completed a guided self-study process to identify technical and process-related problems for immediate revision. Final review is underway for remaining pilot participants with an expected completion by December 31, 2025.

The new process is expected to launch during summer I to allow for formatting changes resulting from the move from Anthology's Program Review platform to Envisio.

Market Research

WMUx Market Research Team Joins the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

As of August 1, the WMUx Market Research team officially transitioned to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE). This move strengthens IE's capacity by adding valuable expertise and resources to support the program review process and other institutional initiatives.

The Market Research team offers a range of **free services** to Western Michigan University faculty and staff, including:

- Market analyses
- Survey creation, distribution, analysis, and visualization
- In-depth interviews and focus groups

Market analyses draw on data such as industry and job posting demand, program and competitor trends, and tuition comparisons. These insights are often used to inform new program proposals, evaluate the health of existing programs, and explore potential opportunities before a proposal even begins.

Survey services can support any stage of a project—from developing survey questions and distributing them to analyzing and visualizing results.

For **qualitative research**, the team conducts both **focus groups** and **in-depth interviews**, offering end-to-end support that includes developing moderator guides, conducting sessions, and performing text analytics and reporting.

The Market Research team's mission is to provide these high-quality services at **no cost**, helping faculty and staff save time, creating the ability to focus on other priorities.

To learn more or request support, [contact the team here](#) to schedule a consultation and discover how they can assist in your next project.

We Need Your Input

Take the Office of Institutional Effectiveness Survey

As our office is focused on promoting efforts and processes for effectiveness and continuous improvement, we would like to ask you to help us become more effective in what we do! In that vein, [we invite you to take a brief survey](#) in which we hope to learn how we can best support you. Thank you in advance for your input, we look forward to hearing from you!



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Office of
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