

**Higher Learning Commission
Ivy Tech Community College
Continued Accreditation Information for Students**

Ivy Tech Community College is requesting continued accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission for an additional 10 years, the maximum number of years granted under current guidelines.

The Higher Learning Commission is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has the legal authority to grant accreditation status to colleges and universities located in Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

As a result of meeting accreditation standards set forth by the Higher Learning Commission, students who attend accredited institution of higher education are:

- Able to receive federal financial aid (e.g. Pell Grants, Loans, Work Study, & Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant) based upon eligibility;
- Experience a higher-level of credit transfer among member institutions; and
- Receive a high quality education that prepares them for their chosen career and life beyond the classroom.

Continued accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission is an important issue for students at any college or university. Through the accreditation process, students can be assured their institution has established continuous improvement processes that lead to improved curriculum development, teaching and learning, student services, and sound financial management processes that meet nationally recognized standards.

Over the past two years, the College has conducted a comprehensive self-study process for accreditation and has identified strengths and opportunities for improvement. The self-study process requires the College to review its policies and practices in relation to criteria defined by the Higher Learning Commission.

The following five criteria, identified by the Higher Learning Commission, were used as part of the self-study process:

Criterion One: Mission and Integrity

The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future

The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

Criterion Five: Engagement and Service

As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituents and serves them in ways both value.

In addition, the College has also chosen to especially focus on diversity and technology as part of the self-study process. In its self-study, the College is required to provide evidence that it has met the criteria as defined by the Higher Learning Commission.

As a student attending Ivy Tech, there are a few things you can expect over the next several months regarding the College's request for continued accreditation.

- A team of consultant-evaluators, comprised of 12 faculty and administrators from various institutions across the country, will visit Ivy Tech January 26, 27, 28, 2009; February 9, 10, 11, 2009; and March 3, 4, 5, 2009.
- As a single institution, Ivy Tech's accreditation spans all 23 campuses and numerous learning centers throughout the state of Indiana. At this time, it is not known which campuses the team of consultant-evaluators will visit. However, as this becomes known, information will be shared with students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.
- During campus visits, open sessions for students will be held. Information pertaining to these student sessions will be posted in advance on the College's website and through Campus Connect. Students are encouraged to attend these sessions and express their views about the College's educational offerings, appeal procedures, and quality of co-and extra-curricular activities.

As part of the self-study process, Ivy Tech is required to provide information to any third-party, including students, who choose to make comments to the Higher Learning Commission regarding the College's request for continued accreditation. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the College or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. Individuals choosing to make such comments should forward them directly to:

Public Comment on Ivy Tech Community College
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602-2504