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## Assessment, Accreditation and Compliance: The Three Musketeers or the Three Stooges?

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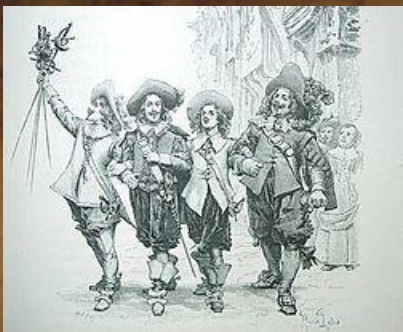
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# ASSESSMENT, ACCREDITATION, AND COMPLIANCE:

The Three Musketeers or  
the Three Stooges



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March 21, 2014



# Components Defined

- ▣ **Assessment** – A goal-oriented process that entails comparing educational performance with educational purposes and expectations - - those derived from the institution's mission, from faculty intentions in program and course design, and from knowledge of students' own goals.<sup>1</sup>





# Components Defined

- ▣ Accreditation - the process used in U.S. education to ensure that schools, postsecondary institutions, and other education providers meet, and maintain, minimum standards of quality and integrity regarding academics, administration, and related services. <sup>2</sup>
- ▣ WMU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)





# Components Defined

- ▣ Compliance -HLC is required to assure that all its member institutions are meeting their Title IV program responsibilities as well as complying with the expectations of specific regulations accreditors must enforce as a part of their recognition by the U.S. Department of Education. Compliance with these requirements by both institutions and HLC is necessary to ensure that institutions accredited by the HLC are eligible for federal financial aid.<sup>3</sup>





# The Role of Strategic Planning

- ▣ Assessment, accreditation, and compliance happen within system of strategic planning
- ▣ When successfully employed, strategic planning:
  - Anticipates changes in accreditation and compliance
  - Mitigates risk and assures full adherence to policies and laws
  - Uses assessment to inform plan revision and institutional change







**Accreditation**

**Strategic  
Planning**

**Assessment**

**Compliance**





# HLC Accreditation

- ▣ Open Pathway 10-year accreditation affirmation multiple touch-point process
  - Process year 4: Assurance review (waived for WMU's current cycle)
  - Process years 5-9: Quality initiative proposed, conducted, reviewed
- ▣ Next comprehensive evaluation and re-affirmation visit: AY 2020-21
- ▣ WMU is in process year 3





# Compliance

- ▣ Institutional Effectiveness reports on compliance with federal law to HLC
  - The Higher Education Opportunity Act
    - ▣ Assigning credit, program length, and tuition
    - ▣ Transfer policies
    - ▣ Verification of student identity
  - Student complaint records
  - Advertising/ recruitment materials
  - Student outcome data
  - Standing with state and specialized program accrediting agencies
  - Public comments





# Compliance

- ▣ Institutional Effectiveness reports on compliance with federal law to HLC
  - Title IV (federal financial aid)
    - ▣ General program responsibilities
    - ▣ Financial responsibility requirements
    - ▣ Default rates
    - ▣ Campus crime
    - ▣ Athletics
    - ▣ Student right to know
    - ▣ Satisfactory academic progress
    - ▣ Contractual and consortial agreements





# Assessment

- ▣ **WMU requirements**
  - Student learning outcomes for each program
  - Measures for each year in report
  - Summarize key findings
- ▣ **HLC connections - Core components**
  - Student Learning and Effective Teaching
  - Routinely assess and report results
  - Evaluates learning resources





# APR&P

## ▣ Connections to HLC

- ▣ Core Component 3 Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- ▣ Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
- ▣ Engagement and Service

## ▣ Assessment at WMU

- ▣ Demand and Assessment - learning outcomes, graduating student success, student satisfaction

## ▣ Strategic planning

- ▣ Mission, vision , goals and performance measures
- ▣ Enrollment management,
- ▣ Program Economy





# References

1. American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) 9 Principles of Good Practice for Assessing Student Learning:  
[http://assessment.uconn.edu/docs/resources/AAHE\\_Principles\\_of\\_Good\\_Practice.pdf](http://assessment.uconn.edu/docs/resources/AAHE_Principles_of_Good_Practice.pdf)
2. U.S. Department of Education:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/us/edlite-accreditation.html>
3. Higher Learning Commission Federal Compliance Program:  
<http://www.ncahlc.org/Policies/federal-compliance-program.html?highlight=WyJjb21wbGlhbmNlI10=>





# QUESTIONS



The Three Stoogeketeers