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ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT

Action Requested: Receive the Annual Accreditation Report

Executive Summary: In compliance with Board of Regents policy 3.9, the three universities submitted reports and findings from programmatic reaccreditations for the Annual Accreditation Report to the Board. Accreditation provides quality assurance from external experts in the areas of faculty, curriculum, administrative and student support. In many professions, licensing boards and employers require completion of an accredited program to ensure employees have the necessary skills. Each accreditor sets its own timeline for the accreditation cycle, including for follow-up after site visits, so there is wide variance in the visit dates, final actions from accreditors and renewal periods.

In addition, each university is accredited at the institution-level by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). A summary of the purpose of HLC accreditation, the timeline for it, and the current schedule for comprehensive evaluation at each institution is found on page 2 of this report.

The table at the end of this report contains the outcomes of the most recent programmatic reviews at each institution. Included are the following programs:

Iowa State University
Architecture
Computer Science
Cybersecurity Engineering
Hospitality Management
Interior Design
Journalism
RN to BSN Program

University of Northern Iowa
Clinical Mental Health Counseling
School Counseling
Electrical Engineering Technology
Manufacturing Engineering Tech
Interior Design
Master of Public Policy
School of Music

University of Iowa
Anesthesia Nursing
Clinical Nutrition
Engineering
Occupational and Environmental Health
Psychology (Clinical Science, PhD)
Urban and Regional Planning (MS)

Accreditation Actions and Status: All programs listed in the table at the end of the report received approval for accreditation. Initial, provisional and probationary accreditation are all accredited statuses, but they do carry additional obligations for those programs as noted. As is common, some accreditors requested interim progress reports. All requests for interim progress reports were completed or in-process at the time of this report. In addition, each program reviewed received commendation for various aspects of the program design, delivery or outcomes while other aspects may need improvement. This process of peer review is an important part of continuous improvement for academic programs.

Institution-Level Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education: Iowa's public universities have all been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (formerly known as the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges) since 1913 (SUI and UNI) and 1916 (ISU). Accreditation is a mechanism for quality assurance that is seen as a benefit to the consumer (i.e. students) in providing confidence that an institution of higher education meets certain standards. It also serves as a mechanism for taxpayers to affirm aspects of the soundness of the public investment into institutions of higher education. Since the passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has also relied on accreditation as a signifier that taxpayer resources in the form of federal loans and grants (such as Pell Grants and subsidized loans), are going to students who attend reputable institutions. Without accreditation from an agency that is officially recognized by the USDOE, students at an institution are not eligible to receive these and other forms of federal financial aid support such as the GI Bill or other Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs programs. Additionally, access to other forms of student financial aid, research grants and federal contracts may be severely limited.

While the process for accreditation may have modest variations among the national accreditors, the standards and expectations are quite similar as they must meet a set of criteria from USDOE.

USDOE Requirements for Accreditor Standards:
- Student achievement
- Curricula
- Faculty
- Facilities, equipment and supplies
- Fiscal and administrative capacity
- Student support services
- Academic calendars, catalogs, publications, grading and advertising
- Student complaints
- Program length
- Degree or credential objectives
- Compliance with program responsibilities of Title IV of Higher Education Act
- Five-year limit on pre-accreditation status

In addition, all accreditors must re-evaluate institutions at regular intervals, monitor and collect periodic reports and annual enrollment and performance indicators. To meet those expectations, HLC processes rely on regular touchpoints to review key metrics, as well as a 10-year cycle that includes a more in-depth Assurance Review on year four, a Quality Initiative Project between years five and nine, and a comprehensive evaluation that includes a campus visit from a team of evaluators in year 10. The table below displays the schedule for each Iowa public university for the elements of the 10-year cycle. Additional reporting may be associated with certain institutional actions such as "substantive changes" or monitoring reports that were assigned by a review team.

HLC Evaluation Schedule

Reporting Requirement	Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Institutional Update of Financial and Non-Financial Indicators	Annual	Annual	Annual
Assurance Review	2020	2023	2025
Quality Initiative	2021-2024	2024-2027	2026-2029
Comprehensive Evaluation	2025-2026	2028-2029	2030-2031
Substantive Change	As needed	As needed	As needed
Monitoring Reports	As needed	As needed	As needed

2022-2023 Accreditation Report

University of Northern Iowa

Program	Accreditor short	Accreditor full	Review Month-year	Status	Notes from accreditor	Term	Renewal Date
Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling	CACREP	Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs	Oct-22	Full Accred	Recommend review of high faculty workloads and improving program assessment data usage.	8 years	2031
Electrical Engineering Technology and Manufacturing Engineering Technology	ABET	Accrediting Board for Engineering & Engineering Technology	Jul-22	Full Accred	Strong assessment system; industry certifications embedded in programs is a strength	6 years	2028
Interior Design	CIDA	Council for Interior Design Accreditation	Nov-22	Probation	Identified weakness in two standards. 1. History of interiors, architecture and design, and 2. Design elements and principles. CIDA will visit to reassess in spring 2025.	2 years	2025
Master of Public Policy	NASPAA	Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration	Mar-23	Full Accred	First time receiving accreditation for this program. Received approval for full term of 7 years.	7 years	2030
School of Music	NASM	National Association of Schools of Music	Mar-21	Full Accred	Progress report due by October 2023 regarding catalog updates on two programs.	8 years	2031

University of Iowa

Program	Accreditor short	Accreditor full	Review Month-year	Status	Notes for follow-up with accreditor	Term	Renewal Date
Anesthesia Nursing	COA	Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs	May-21	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements. Suggestions made on ways to further enhance clinical experiences.	10 years	2031
Clinical Nutrition	ACEND	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics	Feb-23	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements and no major weaknesses identified.	7 years	2030
Engineering	ABET	Accrediting Board for Engineering & Engineering Technology	Feb-21	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements.	6 years	2027
Occupational and Environmental Health (Industrial Hygiene)	ABET	Accrediting Board for Engineering & Engineering Technology (Applied and Natural Science Commission)	Feb-21	Full Accred	Concerns about admissions processes and faculty funding sources were resolved within 30 days of receiving the site team audit report.	6 years	2027
Psychology (Clincial Science Doctoral Prog)	PCSAS	Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System	Jun-21	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements and no major weaknesses identified.	10 years	2031
Urban and Regional Planning (MS)	SPPA	Planning Accreditation Board	May-20	Full Accred	Progress Report by July 2023 re: Faculty Diversity	7 years	2026-27

Iowa State University

Program	Accreditor short	Accreditor full	Review Month-year	Status	Notes from accreditor	Term	Renewal Date
Architecture (B. Arch; M. Arch)	NAAB	National Architectural Accrediting Board	Apr-22	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements.	8 years	2030
Computer Science	ABET	Accrediting Board for Engineering & Engineering Technology	Oct-21	Full Accred	Full compliance with all requirements and no weaknesses identified.	6 years	2028
Cybersecurity Engineering	ABET	Accrediting Board for Engineering & Engineering Technology	Oct-21	Full Accred	This was an initial evaluation as the program was just established in 2019. No deficiencies, weakness or concerns were identified.	3 years	2025
Greenlee School of Journalism	ACEJMC	Accrediting Council of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication	Nov-22	Provisional Accred	Due to concerns with deficiencies on diversity related efforts, provisional accreditaiton was granted. A follow-up report is required.	2 years	2025
Hospitality Management	ACPHA	Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration	Dec-22	Full Accred	Full compliance obtained after follow-up on program strategic plan and assessment data. Program commended for faculty scholarship activity and student access to learning resources.	7 years	2029
Interior Design	CIDA	Council for Interior Design	Apr-22	Full Accred	Program met all 16 standards and was praised for the quality of student work and strong collaboration with students in other design programs on campus.	6 years	2028
RN to BSN Program	ACEN	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing	Feb-22	Initial Accred	Full compliance with program requirements. Suggested strengthening role of nurse administrator in faculty governance.	5 years	2027