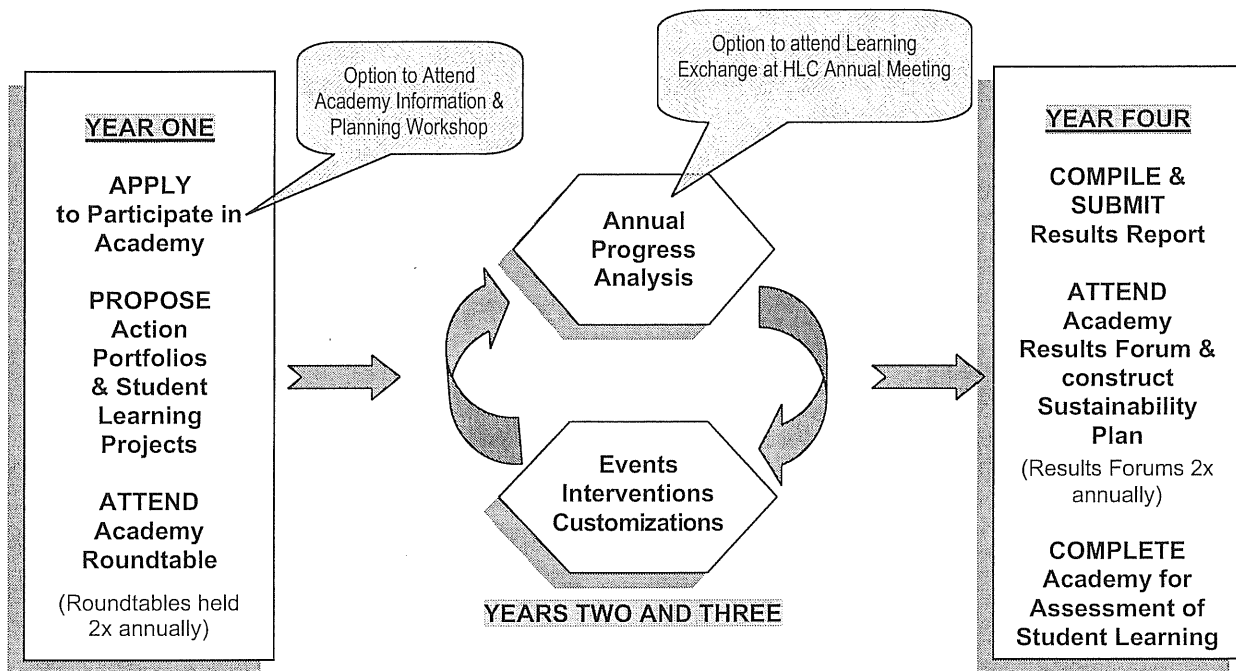# ACADEMY FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

The Academy for Assessment of Student Learning offers The Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) member institutions a four-year sequence of events and interactions that are focused on student learning, targeted at accelerating and advancing efforts to assess and improve student learning, and designed to build institution-wide commitment to assessment of student learning. When planned comprehensively and carefully by the institution, successful participation in the Academy:

(1) can produce evidence for Criteria and Core Components in upcoming accreditation evaluations;

(2) can serve in place of mandated progress reports, monitoring reports and focused visits on assessment of student learning (PEAQ); and

(3) can serve in place of one or more action projects (AQIP).

YEAR ONE

APPLY to Participate in Academy

PROPOSE Action Portfolios & Student Learning Projects

ATTEND Academy Roundtable

(Roundtables held 2x annually)

Option to Attend Academy Information & Planning Workshop

Option to attend Learning Exchange at HLC Annual Meeting

Annual Progress Analysis

Events Interventions Customizations

YEARS TWO AND THREE

YEAR FOUR

COMPILE & SUBMIT Results Report

ATTEND Academy Results Forum & construct Sustainability Plan
(Results Forums 2x annually)

COMPLETE Academy for Assessment of Student Learning

Year 1: Apply, Propose Action Portfolios, and Attend Academy Roundtable
An institution joins the Academy, proposes projects related to assessing and improving student learning that comprise their **Action Portfolio** and sends a team to the three-day **Academy Roundtable**. At the Roundtable, institutions critique and improve their own and other institutions' action projects in consultation with Academy mentors and Commission staff.

Years 2 & 3: Complete Biannual Progress Analyses & Participate in *optional* Programs
Institutions implement their action portfolios and receive mentoring, critique, and validation through **Biannual Progress Analyses** and participate in the **Electronic Network**, which serves as a gathering place for resources and meetings throughout the Academy. Institutions may choose to participate in the annual **Academy Learning Exchange and Showcase** at the Annual Meeting.

Year 4: Complete Results Report. Participate in Results Forum, Complete Academy
Each institution writes a brief **Results Report** and sends a team to the two-day **Academy Results Forum** to showcase accomplishments, to compare and share good practices and to define post-Academy strategies.   Each institution receives a **Results Response** from its reviewers. Through the four years, the Academy will compile **Publications** that showcase accomplishments and inventory good practices.

Academy Features and Benefits for Institutions

Academy Features	Academy Benefits
Four-year sequence of events, interactions, and analyses focused on improving student learning	Support and achieved results that impact and improve student learning
Forums for institutional teams to receive consultation from mentors, receive & provide feedback, network, and share good practice	Increased institutional awareness of and commitment to assessing and improving student learning
Web-based library of Action Portfolios (expected outcomes, assessment strategies and models, instruments, and results), progress analyses, and mentor and peer feedback	Opportunity to compile, share, and compare good practices (including learning outcomes, assessment models, instruments, and results) for assessing and improving student learning
Analysis, critique, and feedback on project design, progress, and other components of Action Portfolios	Documented evidence for accreditation evaluations and follow-up monitoring
Forums for documenting results and impact and sustaining efforts to improve student learning	Replace Commission-mandated follow-up on assessment
Access and reduced pricing to other services for assessing and improving student learning	Collaborative relationship with the Commission in building institutional commitments to improving student learning

Examples of Academy Action Portfolio Topics	
Systemic, Comprehensive Processes Establishing consistency and stability within current assessment practices across the entire institution; a systemic approach and well-established processes.	**Using Assessment data** Utilizing assessment data to improve curricula, teaching and learning environments, and inform institutional processes and decision-making structures.
General Education/Core Curricula Assessing and improving general education/core curriculum or continued expansion and improvement of these efforts.	**Shared Responsibility** Improving ownership, engagement, and buy-in of faculty, administrators, staff, and students in defining, assessing, and improving student learning.
Program/Departmental Review Improve program and departmental level evaluation efforts through the use of learning and assessment evidence within Academic and non-Academic (e.g., Co-curricular) units.	**Measures, Tools, and Performance Criteria** Identifying and/or developing effective measures, tools, instruments, and approaches--as well as performance standards--to gather meaningful and effective data.
Communicating Evidence/ Improving Transparency System for communicating evidence of student learning across the organization; sharing assessment information with internal and external stakeholders.	**Resources & Professional Development** Providing faculty, staff, and administrators resources (e.g., grants, technology, expertise) that help develop effective ways to assess and improve learning.

Application Timeline and Pricing

Events and Dates for 2008-2009	
Fall 2008 Cohort *Optional* Information& Planning Workshop Roundtable Event	September 25 - 26, 2008 November 5 - 7, 2008
Spring 2009 Cohort *Optional* Information& Planning Workshop Roundtable Event	January 15 - 16, 2009 February 18 - 20, 2009
♦ Two cohorts of 18 institutions will be accepted 2008-09. Academy Applications will be accepted until the 2008-09 cohorts are filled.	

Pricing Structure for 2008-2009 Academy Institutions	
YEAR ONE: ♦ Academy Roundtable (multi-day event; five-person team included in pricing, additional team members may be added at additional costs) ♦ Learning Exchange and Showcase at HLC Annual Meeting ♦ Academy's Electronic Network with mentor and consulting services ♦ Optional: Other events, programs, and customizations (additional fee)	$7,500
YEAR TWO: ♦ Bi-annual Progress Analyses (Peer & Mentor Feedback and Consultation on Student Learning Projects) ♦ Learning Exchange and Showcase at HLC Annual Meeting ♦ Academy's Electronic Network with mentor and consulting services ♦ Optional: Other events, programs, and customizations (additional fee)	$4,500
YEAR THREE: ♦ Bi-annual Progress Analyses (Peer & Mentor Feedback and Consultation on Student Learning Projects) ♦ Learning Exchange and Showcase at HLC Annual Meeting ♦ Academy's Electronic Network with mentor and consulting services ♦ Optional: Other events, programs, and customizations (additional fee)	$4,500
YEAR FOUR: ♦ Results Forum (two-day event; five-person team included in pricing, additional team members may be added for additional cost) ♦ Results Report & Sustainability Plan (includes publications and certificates of accomplishment) ♦ Learning Exchange and Showcase at HLC Annual Meeting ♦ Academy's Electronic Network with mentor and consulting services ♦ Optional: Other events, programs, and customizations (additional fee)	$4,500

*Pricing does not include institutional expenses, including travel, lodging, and related costs.