



AACC 24-25 UPDATES

The Office of Accreditation, Assessment, Curriculum, and Compliance

Presented to:	DDC, CHIEFS OF STAFF, and EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS
Presented by:	DR. STACIA MOROSKI-RIGNEY, DIRECTOR

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SUMMARY - ABOUT AACC, est. 2022

The Office of Accreditation, Assessment, Curriculum, and Compliance (AACC) provides foundational support to the university by leading essential work in accreditation and compliance, supporting continuous improvement in curriculum development and design, and implementing campus-wide assessment processes—including undergraduate Academic Program Review. The unit is led by the Director of Accreditation, Program Review, and Assessment, and it houses the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the FERPA Compliance Officer, the State Authorization and Distance Learning Compliance Coordinator, and the University Curriculum Administrator.

Collaborating closely with unit and college accreditation processes, Office of Financial Aid compliance, Institutional Research, and the Office of the Registrar degree audit team, the AACC's goals align with many cross-campus initiatives. AACC facilitates both the Assessment Working Group and the University Curriculum Committee (UCC).

The AACC hopes to meet the complex and sometimes-conflicting goals of the university. The unit supports the balance of internal strategic missions in student success, academic excellence, and institutional equity with external expectations, maintaining accountability and delivering measurable results.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT



STACIA MOROSKI-RIGNEY
Director



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Assistant Director



JOY DAVIS
Catalog &
Curriculum
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State Authorization &
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Administrator



KYLE SABIN
FERPA
Coordinator



ELIZABETH ELLIOTT
Project Manager

MISSION AND VALUES

AACC's 2030 Strategic Plan is/will be available on our website!



Mission Statement

Both equity-minded and efficient, AACC will be seen as a resource, as a valued collaborator, and as a necessary ally in the development and growth of our university-wide commitment to excellence.

Values

Integrity is the core of our work; ensuring protocol and process fosters equity and justice for our collaborators and campus community.

Efficiency amplifies the impact of our work; when processes are streamlined and effective, we can uphold our responsibilities to our stakeholders.

Agility ensures our effectiveness; by being responsive, responsible, resilient, and resourceful, we can address the changing demands of academic, administrative, and legal expectations.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Peer Review Team Site Visit

Nov. 18-19, 2024

- The Peer Review Team reviewed our 30,000-word Reaffirmation Narrative, submitted on Oct. 21
- The Reaffirmation Narrative provides description and evidence of how MSU meets HLC's five Criteria for Accreditation.
- The full assurance argument is available at aacc.msu.edu.

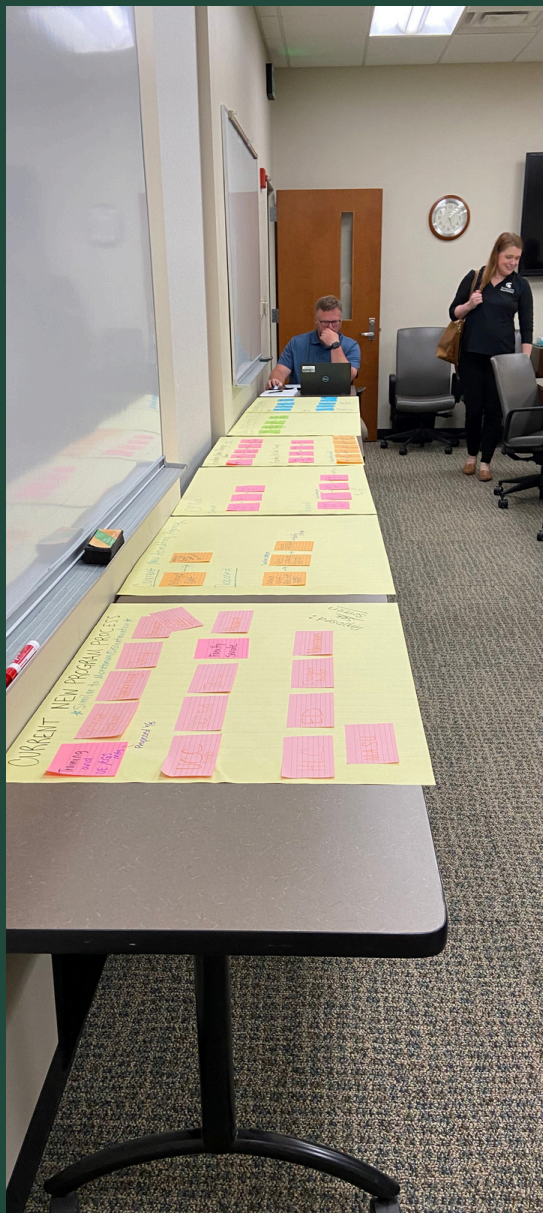
What to Expect

The Peer Review Team has scheduled meetings with a variety of campus leaders and other groups including but not limited to:

- A meeting with the President
- A meeting with the Provost
- A meeting with the CFO
- A meeting with the Executive VP of Administration
- A meeting with the Board of Trustees
- An open forum with faculty
- An open forum with students
- Other meetings as requested by the Peer Review team

The purpose of the meeting/forums for administration/faculty/staff:

- to SUPPORT and SUPPLEMENT the Reaffirmation Narrative
- to contribute additional evidence of our good work supporting the five Criteria



COMPLIANCE

New Federal Rules, New Practices, New Successes in Compliance

The US Department of Education (ED) regularly releases new rules with which universities must comply. These new regulations (“regs”) are released with a required implementation date. For November 2023 (the latest regulations), the set of rules came with an implementation date of July 1, 2024.

As part of a new, comprehensive review process, when regs are released, MSU staffers familiarize, analyze, and identify process or policy changes required based on the regulation. In November 2023, a total set of more than 20 new rules required reviews by units with specialized expertise. Additionally, a core working group of offices at MSU was assembled and remains coordinated by the AACC, including: the Office of Financial Aid, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Registrar, Student Life and Engagement, the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation, and the Office of the Controller.

The November 2023 regs included changes to the Higher Education Act in the areas of Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, and

Certification Procedures. One example of a new rule that necessitated the retooling of an existing MSU processes was led by the Office of the Controller. MSU, along with all other higher education institutions that receive federal financial aid funding, is required to "certify that they will not withhold transcripts or take other negative actions against a student due to an error on the school's part, and that upon a student's request, they will provide an official transcript" (eCFR 668.13, 668.14).

Another rule provides guidance for students around programs that lead to professional licensure or certification. Benchmarking other institutional practices, developing electronic forms in Campus Solutions, and drafting targeted messaging to impacted students will all contribute to a new MSU process that meets this requirement, to be released in early spring 2025.

The national Federal Register is the official site for recording new rules, as in [this new set, expected to be released in October 2024.](#)



NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

● Undergraduate

- Applied Conservation Biology, Bachelor of Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Fall 2024
- Aquatic Ecology and Management, Bachelor of Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Fall 2024
- Digital Storytelling, Minor, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, effective Fall 2024
- Environmental Soil Science, Minor, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Spring 2024
- Fish Ecology and Management, Bachelor of Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Fall 2024
- French Education, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Letters, effective Summer 2024
- French Education, Minor, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Nonprofit Leadership, Religion, and Social Change, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Screenwriting, Minor, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Smart Agricultural Systems, Minor, College of Engineering, effective Fall 2024
- Spanish Education, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Letters, effective Summer 2024
- Spanish Education, Minor, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Technology Engineering, Bachelor of Science, College of Engineering, effective Fall 2024
- Translation, Undergraduate Certificate, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Wildlife Ecology and Management, Bachelor of Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Fall 2024

- **Graduate**

- Accounting Foundations, Graduate Certificate, College of Business, effective Fall 2024
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Master of Arts, College of Education, effective Fall 2024
- Foundations in Chemical Engineering, Graduate Certificate, College of Engineering, effective Spring 2024
- Global Plant Breeding, Master of Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, effective Summer 2024
- Integrated Secondary Science Education, Master of Science, College of Education, effective Fall 2024
- Leadership for Equity Minded Change in Postsecondary Education, Doctor of Education, College of Education, effective Summer 2024
- Second Language Studies, Graduate Certificate, College of Arts and Letters, effective Fall 2024
- Semiconductor Manufacturing, Processing, and Devices, Graduate Certificate, College of Engineering, effective Spring 2024
- Work and Organizational Psychology, Master of Science, College of Social Science, effective Fall 2024

WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal Policy Recently Updated

This past Summer a team from Enrollment Services led a collaborative review and redevelopment project focused on the University Withdrawal Policy. After engaging with stakeholders across campus, the finalized policy became effective in fall 2024.

Students may now initiate a withdrawal anytime and for any reason from the Class Starts date through the Class Ends date. In the fall and spring terms, the Class Ends date is the Friday before the week of final examinations. Students who withdraw after the Last Day to Drop with No Grade Reported will receive "W" grades on their official transcript. "0.0" grades will no longer be issued for students who withdraw from a term.

After the Class Ends date, students interested in withdrawing for a particular semester must request a retroactive withdrawal. Circumstances for consideration of a retroactive withdrawal and where the request process may be discussed are included in the new policy.

The [full University Withdrawal Policy](#) is available in the Academic Programs Catalog. Additional information about withdrawal is available on the [Office of the Registrar's Withdrawal webpage](#), which serves as an ideal landing page for any student considering withdrawing from MSU.

CONTACT US

[To reach AACC Team Members](#)

[AACC Feedback](#)



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