



Year 4 HLC Comprehensive Evaluation *Standard Pathway*

FAQs:

Q: *Is this a follow-up visit, focus visit, or comprehensive evaluation?*

A: Our 2016-17 self-study will consist of a comprehensive evaluation, similar to the 2012-13 visit. Butler has transitioned into the ***Standard Pathway*** 10-year cycle of accreditation, which replaces the former PEAQ process. The Standard Pathway requires comprehensive evaluations in years 4 and 10 of the cycle. The year-4 visit does not include a “reaffirmation” of accreditation, as that will typically occur in year 10 (as in the past).

Q: *Can we integrate the 2012-13 self-study report in some way?*

A: Yes. We are encouraged to use the 2012 document as a starting place, to update the narrative and materials already created for that visit. The existing narrative will also require editing, however, given the new maximum length for self-study reports. Further, the Pathways system expects less narrative and more evidence overall.

Q: *What is the expected format of this self-study report?*

A: The reporting requirements and formats have changed since 2012. There is less narrative and description, and more evidence and data. The maximum length is 40,000 words. The narrative will still be organized around the five HLC criteria and core components. Rather than a lengthy appendix, documents and evidence will reside on a special web site with hyperlinks pointing from the text.

Q: *Are there benefits to using the Standard Pathway rather than PEAQ?*

A: Apparently, yes 😊. Although the Pathways approach is new to the HLC and Butler, the promoted benefits include the following:

1. The comprehensive self-study report (assurance argument) will be less lengthy and cumbersome, maxing out at 40,000 words or less.
2. A physical “resource room” with supplemental documents, materials, and computers is no longer necessary.
3. All documents, data, and reports will be submitted electronically through the use of the HLC’s own portal, or Assurance System. No hard copies are required.
4. The workload for comprehensive evaluation visits is spread over the ten-year cycle rather than occurring in a flurry every ten years. The university can continue to add and update evidence and related documents throughout the year, over the course of the ten-year cycle.
5. Use of the online “Assurance System” (HLC online portal) will allow for entirely electronic submissions over the course of the 10-year cycle, thereby reducing the need for hard copies.

Q: *For how long can Butler continue to upload data prior to the site visit?*

A: We can change and add anything within the Assurance System (portal) until one month prior to the visit. The system will “lock” for us on January 27, 2017. Materials therefore should realistically be already in the system by the holidays in **December, 2016**.

Q: *Does Butler need to conduct a Quality Initiative (improvement project)?*

A: A Quality Initiative is not required for institutions within the *Standard Pathway* (but is required for the *Open Pathway*). Any monitoring reports and related improvements identified through recent accreditation visits are considered collectively to be the “initiative” within the Standard Pathway.