

# Understandings and Expectations of the AQIP Pathway

These understandings and expectations express the agreement between AQIP and the organization, establishing the conditions for this accreditation process.

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## ***An institution participating in the Academic Quality Improvement Program will:***

- commit to a systematic institution-wide quality effort to improve continuously its academic and related processes, and provide AQIP with regular evidence of the vitality of this initiative and the results it is achieving;
- engage faculty, staff, and other constituents in defining and implementing quality improvement efforts so that an institution-wide culture and understanding of systematic academic quality improvement evolves;
- promote and provide broad-based faculty and staff involvement in activities and in professional development that builds awareness and understanding of the principles and practices of systematic quality improvement at all levels of the institution;
- establish systems for communication with staff, students, and other constituents and stakeholders regarding the institution's involvement and progress in its systematic quality initiative;
- attend a Strategy Forum within the first year of joining AQIP to begin working on Action Projects and a Systems Portfolio, and participate in all required AQIP activities (e.g., Strategy Forums, Systems Appraisals, Annual Updates, Quality Checkup Visits) that are essential to the effectiveness of the AQIP Pathway.

## ***The Academic Quality Improvement Program will:***

- place each institution joining AQIP at an appropriate point in AQIP's repeating seven-year reaccreditation cycle.
- conduct a Quality Checkup visit to each institution in year six of the seven-year reaccreditation cycle, and review each institution's record for Reaffirmation of Accreditation in year seven;
- collaborate with each participating institution to help it accomplish its goals and maximize its performance, responding energetically, quickly, and courteously to requests for assistance or information in all quality-related areas identified;
- share information on organizational quality improvement by identifying, evaluating, validating, and sharing best and innovative practices discovered by participating and partnering organizations, making information about an institution public only with the institution's consent;
- follow standard Higher Learning Commission policies and procedures to determine an institution's ability to continue on the AQIP Pathway following Reaffirmation of Accreditation or other substantive changes in its relationship with the Commission; and
- work to create with its participating institutions a culture of involvement and shared responsibility that will enhance communication and development of the critical judgment, skills, and capacities required for systematic quality improvement; and
- encourage systems-thinking and provide resources that will stimulate continuous improvement and effective accountability.