



# ***Making the Shoe Fit***

## **The New HLC Accreditation Criteria and Research Universities**

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# Outline of Presentation

- The new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) criteria
- Evolution of self-study process
- Interpretation of Criteria 4 & 5
- Organization of self-study report
- Planning the team visit
- Lessons for others



## New HLC Criteria

- Criterion 1: *Mission and Integrity*
- Criterion 2: *Preparing for the Future*
- Criterion 3: *Student Learning and Effective Teaching*
- Criterion 4: *Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge*
- Criterion 5: *Engagement and Service*



# Self-Study Process

- Committees
  - Steering committee
  - Working group
- Collecting evidence
  - Focus groups
  - Interviews
  - Activity mapping
- Broad campus review



## Broad Challenges

- Organization - accreditation criteria or cross-cutting themes?
- How to interpret criteria?
- Necessary repetition or mere redundancy?
- No examples – KU one of first institutions to use new criteria



## Interpreting Criterion 4 *Acquisition, Discovery, & Application of Knowledge*

- Where is research?
- Life long learning
- General education
- Assessment
- Usefulness of curriculum



## Interpreting Criterion 5 *Engagement and Service*

- Scope and complexity
- Assessment of need
- Evidence of capacity
- Evidence of value
- Integrative themes versus catalog listings



## Interpreting Criterion 5 *Engagement and Service*

Service and engagement  
emerge directly from expertise  
in teaching and research



## Organizing the Report Additional Sections

- KU Story
- Structure of KU
- Significant Changes
- Response to 1994 Concerns
- Future Directions
- Academic Profiles



# Organizing the Visit

## Innovations

- Group meetings
- Resource room materials
- Use of technology
- Briefing document



# Recommendations Research Universities

- Focus on criteria not themes
- Engage in activity mapping exercise
- Use group meeting format
- Consider additional sections
  - Significant changes
  - Academic profiles
- Identify visiting team chair early



# Additional Information

## **Self-Study materials:**

[www.ku.edu/~oirp/NCA/ReportTOC.shtml](http://www.ku.edu/~oirp/NCA/ReportTOC.shtml)

## **Self-Study Process and Resource Room:**

[www.ku.edu/~oirp/NCA/](http://www.ku.edu/~oirp/NCA/)

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