Earning reaccreditation

To earn reaccreditation, Connors needs to demonstrate that it is fulfilling five criteria:

- **Mission and Integrity**—Connors operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff and students.

- **Preparing for the Future**—Connors’ allocation of resources and evaluation and planning processes demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

- **Student Learning and Effective Teaching**—Connors provides evidence that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

- **Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge**—Connors promotes a life of learning by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

- **Engagement and Service**—Connors identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.
Connors launched a two-year, comprehensive self-study process in April 2008 to prepare for review by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and a campus visit by an accreditation team scheduled for the spring of 2010.

Accreditation provides assurances to the public, in particular to prospective students, that Connors meets regional accreditation criteria and demonstrates that it will continue to meet them.

Connors, which received its most recent re-accreditation in 1999, is seeking the continue accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission for the next 10 years.

The re-accreditation team, made up of out-of-state individuals from two-year institutions of similar size and scope, will look closely at the college’s operations, consider how Connors has fulfilled its mission over the past 10 years and will assess its capacity for shaping the quality of the institution in the future.

The goals of the self-study process

- To earn continuing accreditation for Connors State College at the maximum ten-year cycle.
- To communicate the self-study process and final report to the entire college community and to its constituencies.
- To integrate self-study data and analysis with ongoing institutional assessment and strategic planning processes for continuous improvement.

The self-study process

All members of the Connors’ community are encouraged and invited to participate in the self-study process.

An HLC Steering Committee, appointed during the spring 2008 semester is structuring the process. Team members are Margaret Rigney, Pat Clancy, Wanda Fuller, Lynett Rock, Debara Corrado, Beverly Wilcoxon, Jolene Armstrong, Mary Smith, Bridget Beaver, Dr. Ramona Piercy and Dr. JoLynn Digranes. Committees representing the five criteria for accreditation have formed and have begun the initial information-gathering work of the self-study.

Through subcommittees of the aforementioned criterion committees, other members of the campus community will be called upon to provide additional expertise and resources during the self-study process. These committees will gather information that, among other things, demonstrates how Connors is fulfilling the five HLC criteria; provides an institutional snapshot of Connors today; and, updates the 1999 self-study report.

More information about the self-study process is available via links on Connors’ main web page at www.connorsstate.edu. Click on either the NCA Higher Learning Commission or CSC HLC Information links toward the bottom of the page.

Timeline:

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<td>Self-Study Steering Committee &amp; Criterion Committees formed</td>
<td>Committees conduct Self-Study</td>
<td>Draft Self-Study Report circulated for comments</td>
<td>Final Draft Review of Self-Study Report</td>
<td>Self-Study mailed to HLC &amp; Evaluation Team Members</td>
<td>Evaluation Team Visits Connors’ campuses</td>
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