

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Academic Affairs Updates

Interim Provost Shayne Cofer
January 16, 2025



Academic Affairs Items for Information

- Master of Science in Nursing Update
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Updates: EdD Application and Site Visit
- Quality Initiative Proposal for HLC Accreditation

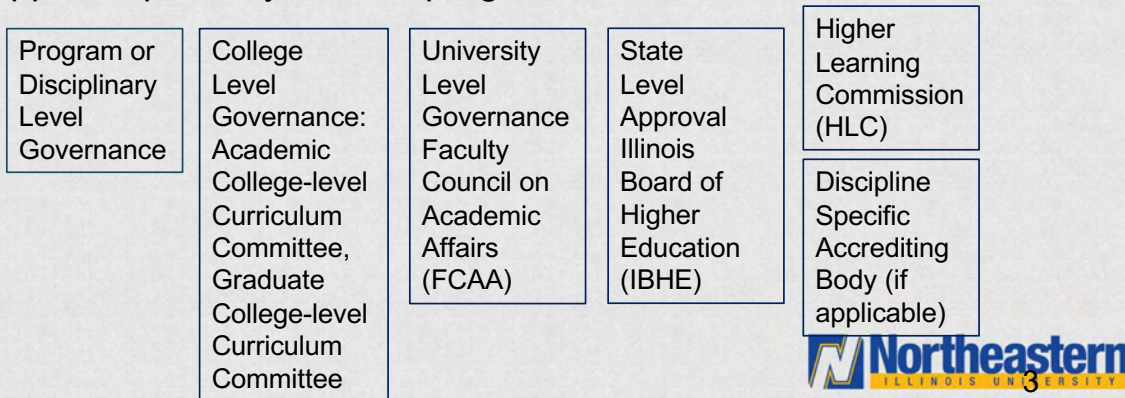


Academic Affairs Items for Information

Master of Science in Nursing Update

Currently under review with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). IBHE's last correspondence (Technical questions, November 25, 2024) asked NEIU to address funding of the simulation laboratory. BOT approved funding of the simulation lab at the November 24, 2024 meeting, and this was reported to IBHE.

Approval pathway for new programs:



Higher Learning Commission Updates: Academic Programs, Program Review & Accreditation

All continuing academic programs at NEIU are evaluated through a combination of assessment (at departmental/college levels), program review (academic affairs/university level, and reported to IBHE), and/or a reaccreditation process.

Current programs at NEIU are accredited by agencies such as:

- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- Accredited graduate programs in Counseling (CACREP)
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

NEIU overall is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). All **new** programs are approved by IBHE, by the HLC, and if applicable, also by a program-specific accrediting agency.

Academic Affairs Items for Information

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Updates

1. Ed.D. Program Application and Site Visit

The proposed doctorate (Ed.D.) in Education program in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry (LEI) was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) on November 18, 2024.

Following the IBHE approval NEIU is seeking approval from HLC, our accreditation body, to offer this new EdD program. This is considered a “substantial change” application and triggers 2-day long a site visit by HLC peer reviewers, to be scheduled for March or April 2025. The site visit will involve review of the scope and quality of the proposed program and resources available, and will involve meetings/visits with administrators, program faculty, staff and students.



Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Updates (continued)

HLC Spring 2025 Site Visit for the EdD Program: What to expect

- A two person HLC review committee (1 LEAD and 1 content expert) typically completes a 1 and ½ day visit
- The team arrives Sunday evening and leaves Tuesday afternoon
- Meetings with stakeholders take place on Monday and Tuesday
- The team typically requests additional documentation and asks any remaining questions at the visit
- A short (15-30 minutes) exit interview occurs on Tuesday by noon
- The HLC team completes their report within 4 weeks of the visit
- The HLC Liaison reviews the report (1 week)
- The institution receives the report and responds with corrections of fact (2 weeks)
- The HLC team chair has one week to make any corrections
- The Institutional Actions Council (IAC) takes final action within two weeks of their meeting
- The final action is posted on HLC’s site within 30 days of the IAC meeting



Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Updates (Continued)

2. Quality Initiative Proposal for HLC Accreditation

NEIU is on the “Open Pathway” route to accreditation, available to those institutions that have previously completed at least one 10-year pathway cycle. The Open Pathway consists of:

- An Assurance Review (Year 4: completed in 2021-22)
- A strategic improvement plan called the Quality Initiative Plan (between years 5 and 9: upcoming)
- A comprehensive evaluation in Year 10 (2027-28)

NEIU’s proposed Quality Initiative (QI) Plan will focus on Equity in Student Success and Achievement, in particular on strategic initiatives around advising and onboarding of new and continuing students and will build on NEIU’s ongoing efforts in this area. QI Plan filed by Spring 2025, work continues 2025 to 2027. QI report due in 2027. HLC Comprehensive Evaluation 2027-28.



Spring 2025 Retention Update

1/14/25 - 72.2% (385) of Fall 2024 first-year students registered, compared to 76.7% Fall 2023 at this time.

Goal: 62% Fall to Fall (342/533 FTFT)

Spring Efforts to retain first year students:

- Early financial AR hold placed to clear debts (60% reduction 12/20/24)
- TextAIM campaign (all undergraduates not registered)
- NEIUSar text & email (XXXX)
- Advisor outreach & follow up with non registered students - phone/email
- Snail mail postcards
- Tiered monitoring based on Fall 2024 GPA
- FYE MentorCity pilot
- Student outings, retreats for continued connection & belonging





Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee Northeastern Illinois University

Terry C. Mena
*Vice President for Student Affairs
& Dean of Students*

January 16, 2025

Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (MHEAC) Institutional & Competitive Grant

PURPOSE

To address gaps in mental health services on college campuses through training, peer support, and community-campus partnerships

GOALS

- Increase awareness - for student and faculty/staff
- Increase access to services and support for students
- Develop strategic partnerships
- Increase clinical ratio benchmark

FINANCIAL AWARD

- Institutional MHEAC - \$267,774 (FY24 - \$202,974)
- Competitive MHEAC - \$289,940

NEIU's IMPLEMENTATION

- Awareness - student orientation and training (Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training)
- Access - Mindwise/Online Screening, TimelyCare, Protocall, Peer Wellness Coach program
- Partnerships - local mental health service providers
- Benchmarks - on-campus counselors (SCS), extra help therapist, telehealth counselors



Ending Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) Grant

PURPOSE

To address the root causes of homelessness for post-secondary students.

GOALS

- Training and professional development for HOUSE liaisons and/or other staff related to addressing the unique needs of homeless students and students in care & wrap around services.
- Partnerships with local K-12 schools or community organizations to facilitate the transition for homeless students and students in care into higher education and provide resources
- Direct aid to students including housing vouchers/stipends, textbook scholarships, technology stipends, rental application fees, and utility bill assistance.

FINANCIAL AWARD

- Institutional FY25 - \$200,000

NEIU's IMPLEMENTATION

- Expand Student Emergency fund to provide support housing insecurity
- Instituting a Graduate student as Student Care Aide
- Expanding capacity for Student Pantry operations and hours
- Increase visibility of Advocacy Resource Center Committee and services for students in care or impacted by the Foster Care system.



Student Union Renovation Projects

- **Golden Eagles Room Renovation**
 - New paint, flooring, and lighting and updated HVAC components
 - Removed asbestos from under old flooring
 - New audio/visual system with built-in video conferencing
 - New furniture and room accessories
- **Student Union Lounge Furniture Updates**
 - New furniture for 1st and 2nd floor lounge areas
 - Moved furniture to cafeteria dining area to create student lounge space
 - Plans to build out a video gaming/tv lounge
- **Performing Arts Venues upgrades - Phase 1 - Life Safety and Rigging repair**
 - 80-90% complete Phase 1 of multi-phase project
 - Many small projects to address life-safety, rigging, electrical and fire safety
 - New lighting controls, audio interfaces and additional wireless microphones
 - Updated storage/electrical area for Stage Center Theater to address safety issue
 - Rigging updates to all venues



Questions?

