1. **Accreditation Overview:** Institution-wide accreditation is done through 6 regional accrediting associations. Ours is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) is one of HLC's accreditation pathways. HLC developed AQIP to help institutions like us retain our institutional autonomy and academic freedom by providing a structure to demonstrate academic excellence.

2. **Accreditation History:** Ohio University has been accredited since 1913 and has been in AQIP since 2002.

3. **Benefits of Accreditation:** Students can receive federal financial aid. Faculty can receive federal grant funding. We demonstrate a commitment to best practices for teaching and learning, academic support, and planning through 5 HLC Criteria for Accreditation.

4. **Significant Dates in Ohio University's path toward Reaffirmation of Accreditation:**
   - 2013-2014 Systems Portfolio; Systems Appraisal (HLC evaluation of Systems Portfolio)
   - 2014-15 Strategy Forum (Ohio University sent an AQIP team in Spring)
   - 2015-16 Reaffirmation of Accreditation (on-campus review and notification by HLC)

5. **Criteria for Accreditation:** (1) mission; (2) integrity; (3) teaching & learning; (4) evaluating and improving teaching & learning; (5) resources & planning.

6. **Activities 2013-14 through 2014-15:**
   - Increase awareness and understanding about HLC accreditation and AQIP
   - Engage the University community in AQIP accreditation activities in preparation for site visit
   - Convene AQIP Task Force--representatives from colleges and Planning units
   - Increase Ohio University's involvement with HLC: annual conference, assessment training
   - Focus AQIP Action Projects on academic assessment and curricular themes
   - Consult with outside AQIP/assessment experts to assist our academic units
   - Create Teaching, Learning, & Assessment Committee to coordinate how Ohio University “Helps Students Learn.”

7. **Assessment of student learning objectives:** Criterion four requires that all academic programs assess their student learning objectives. We are following a simple implementation plan, asking each academic program to update their student learning objectives; identify sources of systematic evidence (qualitative and/or quantitative); and develop an action plan to improve teaching and learning based on the evidence gathered.

8. **AQIP Reaffirmation of Accreditation Panel Review:** Peer reviewers from HLC will examine our accreditation documents (Systems Portfolio, Action Project reports, Comprehensive Quality Review including a site visit, University's Web site, institutional responses to AQIP reports, etc.).

9. **AQIP Categories:** (1) helping students learn; (2) accomplishing other distinctive objectives; (3) understanding students' & other stakeholders' needs; (4) valuing people; (5) leading & communicating; (6) supporting institutional operations; (7) measuring effectiveness; (8) planning continuous improvement; (9) building collaborative relationships.

10. **Outcome(s) of Review:** Panel of reviewers examine each accreditation criterion and evaluate Ohio University in terms of the following: met; met with concerns; not met. Any rating but "met" requires additional action on Ohio University's part (following specific HLC recommendations for correction along with some form of monitoring or follow-up visit). Maximum duration of reaffirmation of accreditation for any institution that has met all criteria is now eight years.