



## AQIP Cycles of Improvement

AQIP is a quality improvement program and a quality assurance program for higher education organizations. It operates by involving participating institutions in three distinct cycles that occur simultaneously. Each cycle has a different duration and sequence of distinctive processes.



**Action** — This **one-year cycle** drives continuous improvement by having every AQIP college or university tackle three or four **Action Projects** that it has chosen, committed to completing in a few months or years, and published in AQIP's on-line **Action Project Directory**. Organizations can complete **Action Projects** and begin new ones at any time. Each fall, they provide **Action Project Updates** to AQIP on the progress of current projects, and AQIP provides written feedback on these reports. Improvements in the processes an institution employs or the performance results it achieves are incorporated into its published **Systems Portfolio**.



**Strategy** — This **four year cycle** drives improvement by having every AQIP organization create and maintain an up-to-date **Systems Portfolio** describing key systems and processes the organization uses to achieve its goals and the performance results it obtains from them. A **System Appraisal** of the **Systems Portfolio** provides institutions with written, actionable feedback they can use to create strategies and actions that will move them quickly toward achievement of their goals. Participation in a **Strategy Forum** drives organizations to use this feedback in shaping new strategies, aligning systems, and creating specific **Action Projects**.



**Accreditation** — This **seven-year cycle** quality assurance reviews evidence from both the action cycles and strategy cycles, evidence that demonstrates that an AQIP organization continues to comply with the Higher Learning Commission's *Criteria for Accreditation* – and that continuing its participation in AQIP will result in measurable performance improvement. A **Quality Checkup** visit to the institution a year or two before its **Reaffirmation of Accreditation** review confirms the improvements it is making as well as the accuracy of the evidence it has provided to AQIP while providing helpful feedback and consultation on specific issues of its choosing.

**New AQIP institutions** concentrate their first **Strategy Forum** on selecting initial **Action Projects** that will launch their quality initiative with energy. Following this first **Strategy Forum**, they create a **Systems Portfolio**, and submit it for **Systems Appraisal** no later than the academic year that occurs ten years after their last PEAQ comprehensive evaluation. To make sure they will have sufficient time to create a **Systems Portfolio**, institutions joining AQIP must have had their last comprehensive site visit within the last seven years. This provides three to four years for the challenging task of developing a first **Systems Portfolio**.

**Title of Document**



<b>2002-2003</b>		<b>1</b>
Feb 26-Mar 1	Strategy Forum	
Apr 13-16	HLC Annual Meeting	
May 29	AP2: Review and Redesign General Education	
May 29	AP3: Design a Comprehensive Academic Advising System	
May 30	AP1: Assimilate Adjunct Faculty into the Academy	
<b>2003-2004</b>		<b>2</b>
Sept 19	Action Project Update	
Mar 26-30	HLC Annual Meeting	
<b>2004-2005</b>		<b>3</b>
Sept 14	Action Project Update	
Apr 8-12	HLC Annual Meeting	
<b>2005-2006</b>		<b>4</b>
Sept 9	Action Project Update	
Mar 31-Apr 4	HLC Annual Meeting	
Jun 26	Systems Portfolio	
<b>2006-2007</b>		<b>5</b>
Sept 13	Action Project Update	
Sept 28	Systems Appraisal Feedback Report	
Jan 23-26	Strategy Forum	
Apr 16	AP4: Sustaining a Quality Culture: Tools and Strategies	
Apr 16	AP1: Retired	
Apr 16	AP5: Laying Foundations for Measuring Effectiveness	
Apr 16	AP2: Retired	
Apr 20-24	HLC Annual Meeting	
<b>2007-2008</b>		<b>6</b>
Sept 6	Action Project Update	
Apr 11-15	HLC Annual Meeting	
<b>2008-2009</b>		<b>7</b>
Sept 14	Action Project Update	
Jan 30	AP6: Improving Success of High Risk Students	
Jan 30	AP3: Retired	
Feb 18-20	Quality Checkup Visit	
Apr 17-21	HLC Annual Meeting	

<b>2009-2010</b>		<b>1</b>
Sept 1	Reaffirmation of Accreditation	
Aug 21	Quality Highlights	
Aug 1-Sept 14	Action Project Update	
Oct 1	AP7: Process Management	
Oct 1	AP4: Retired	
Oct 1	AP8: Values Assessment	
Oct 1	AP5: Retired	
Apr 9-13	HLC Annual Meeting	
Jun 1	Systems Portfolio Update	
<b>2010-2011</b>		<b>2</b>
Aug 1-Sept 14	Action Project Update	
Sept	Systems Appraisal Feedback Report	
Feb/May	Strategy Forum	
Apr 8-12	HLC Annual Meeting	
<b>2011-2012</b>		<b>3</b>
Aug 1-Sept 14	Action Project Update	
Dec 31	AP9	
Dec 31	AP7: Retired	
Mar 30- Apr 3	HLC Annual Meeting	
Jun 1	AP10	
Jun 1	AP6: Retired	
Jun 30	AP11	
Jun 30	AP8: Retired	

  

1 year	Action Project Update
1 year	HLC Annual Meeting
4 years	Systems Portfolio Update
4 years	Systems Appraisal
4 years	Strategy Forum
7 years	Quality Checkup Visit
7 years	Reaffirmation