

IIT's Pathways Transition

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On September 1, 2012 institutions accredited by the Higher Learning Commission began the transition to the new Pathways model for reaffirmation of accreditation. This document provides information about the transition process.

Those institutions with reaffirmation scheduled in 2015-16 or 2016-17 have been notified of their placement on the Standard Pathway or eligibility for the Open Pathway. In either case, transition will occur in September 2012.

In July 2012 those institutions that are eligible for the Open Pathway were asked to affirm their pathway selection—either Open or Standard. (*Due to the timing of the next reaffirmation, institutions in this group may not choose AQIP at this time.*) These institutions will remain on their chosen pathway until the reaffirmation of accreditation in 2015-16 or 2016-17. At that time, the Commission will determine whether the institution should be placed on the Standard Pathway or may choose its preferred pathway—Standard, Open, or AQIP.

IIT is eligible to choose between the Standard and Open Pathway models. Provost Alan Cramb has requested a recommendation from the IIT Accreditation Advisory Committee about which model to choose. The table on the next page presents the main differences between the two models.

Once the IIT Accreditation Advisory Committee makes a decision the chair of the committee, Siva Balasubramanian, will inform Provost Cramb of the Committee's recommendation. The Provost will communicate the decision to the President, John Anderson, who will communicate IIT's choice to the Higher Learning Commission, via the form on page 3 of this document.

Comparison of Standard and Open Pathways Models for Re-affirmation of Accreditation

	Standard Pathway	Open Pathway
Goals of the Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To reduce the reporting burden on institutions by utilizing as much information and data as possible from existing institutional processes and collecting them in electronic form as they naturally occur over time. ii. To enhance rigor by checking institutional data annually and conducting comprehensive evaluations twice in a 10-year cycle. iii. To integrate as much as possible all HLC processes and requests for data into the reaffirmation of accreditation cycle. 	<p>Same as the Standard Pathway, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. To enhance institutional value by opening the improvement aspect of accreditation so that institutions may choose Quality Initiatives to suit their current circumstances.
Determining Factors	<p>Available to all accredited institutions at any time, unless institution is on Probation or under a Show-Cause order, when it follows a separate process.</p> <p>An institution may be limited to the Standard Pathway it meets one or more of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been accredited for fewer than 10 years. • It has undergone a change of control, structure or organization within the last two years. • It has been under Commission sanction or related action within the last five years. • It has been undergoing dynamic change or requiring frequent substantive change approvals since the last comprehensive evaluation. • It has raised significant Commission concerns about circumstances or developments at the institution. • It has failed to make a serious effort to conduct its Quality Initiative in the Open Pathway. 	<p>An institution may participate in the Open Pathway if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been accredited for at least 10 years. • It has not undergone a change of control, structure, or organization within the last 2 years. • It has not been under Commission sanction or related action within the last 5 years. • It does not have a history of extensive Commission monitoring. • It has not been undergoing dynamic changes or requiring frequent substantive change approvals since the last comprehensive evaluation. • It has not raised significant Commission concerns about circumstances or developments at the institution.
Frequency of Comprehensive Evaluations	Two comprehensive evaluations take place in a 10-year cycle, one in Year 4 and one in Year 10.	One comprehensive evaluation takes place in a 10-year cycle.
Components of Comprehensive Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An Assurance Review ii. A review of Federal Compliance iii. An on-site visit iv. If applicable, a multi-campus review 	Same as Standard Pathway
Other Requirements	None	Quality improvement initiative

PATHWAYS DECLARATION FORM

This document constitutes the institution's official Pathway selection for reaffirmation of accreditation. The form is due by October 1, 2012, for institutions with comprehensive evaluations (or reaffirmations for AQIP institutions) in 2015-16 and 2016-17. All others should return the form by December 1, 2012.

We have reviewed the materials provided by the Commission and have selected the following as our Pathway for reaffirmation of accreditation:

Open Pathway AQIP Pathway Standard Pathway

Signature of Institution's President or Chancellor

Date

John L. Anderson, President

Printed/Typed Name and Title

Illinois Institute of Technology

Name of Institution

Chicago, Illinois

City and State

FAX THE COMPLETED FORM TO 312-263-7462

OR SAVE IT AS A PDF AND SEND IT BY EMAIL TO:

pathways@hlcommission.org