

# HLC Quality Initiative

Designing and Implementing a Sustainable  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Academic Advising Program

# Why Do We Have a “Quality Initiative” for the HLC?

- ▶ There are currently three pathways institutions may follow in seeking reaffirmation of their accreditation through HLC (Higher Learning Commission), our accreditor:
  - ▶ The Standard Pathway
  - ▶ The AQIP Pathway
  - ▶ The Open Pathway
- ▶ The Commission determines whether an institution may participate in the Open Pathway. This determination is based upon the institution's present condition, including scheduled monitoring, and past relationship with the Commission.
- ▶ Cedarville University is an **Open Pathway** institution

# The Open Pathway seeks to achieve the following goals.

- To enhance institutional value by opening the improvement aspect of accreditation so that institutions may choose Quality Initiatives to suit their current circumstances
- 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
- To enhance rigor by checking institutional data annually (Institutional Update) and conducting Assurance Reviews twice in the ten-year cycle
- To integrate as much as possible all HLC processes and HLC requests for data into the reaffirmation of accreditation cycle.

The Open Pathway requires the institution to undertake a major Quality Initiative designed to suit its present concerns or aspirations.

- ▶ The Quality Initiative takes place between years 5 and 9 of the 10-year Open Pathway Cycle.
- ▶ A Quality Initiative may be designed to begin and be completed during this time or it may continue an initiative already in progress or achieve a key milestone in the work of a longer initiative.
- ▶ The Quality Initiative is intended to allow institutions to take risks, aim high, and if so be it, learn from only partial success or even failure.

# Cedarville University's HLC Quality Initiative

## Designing and Implementing a Sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academic Advising Program

# What Did We Say We Will Do?

- ▶ Evaluate our current academic advising program
- ▶ Create increased clarity and purpose for both students and advisors as to the mission and objectives of the academic advising program and Cedarville University
- ▶ Identify, develop, and implement appropriate resources for advisors and students
- ▶ Design, implement, and then assess a codified and intentional academic advising program that is appropriately defined, supported and administered...
  - ▶ So that ALL students (on-campus and online; graduate, first professional degree, undergraduate, and high school) have a relationship with an academic advisor that will aid them in defining and realizing their personal, educational, intellectual, and spiritual goals while a student at CU.
  - ▶ And so that the advisor-advisee relationship plays an integral role in the accomplishment of the University's mission and objectives.

# Our Intended Results?

- ▶ Assist students in identifying educational goals and aspirations that are in keeping with their gifts, talents, and abilities in a timely way so that their educational experience is as efficient as feasible.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for students to establish and pursue personal, intellectual, and spiritual goals in conjunction with their educational goals.
- ▶ Decrease the number of “unnecessary” courses taken
- ▶ Improve our 6-year graduation rates
- ▶ Increase the satisfaction in the advising experience for both advisors and advisees alike
- ▶ Share the results of our efforts in professional literature

# So, What's Happening???

- ▶ Appointment of the Academic Advising Task Force
  - ▶ Ruth Markham, Psychology
  - ▶ Kevin Sims, History & Government; Liberal Arts Major
  - ▶ Peggy Grigorenko, Education
  - ▶ Lindsey McCarty, Mathematics
  - ▶ Phil Schanely, Web Design/Graphic Design
  - ▶ Ginger Cameron, Pharmacy
  - ▶ Karisa Linafelter, Registrar's Office
  - ▶ Becky Kuhn, The Cove
  - ▶ Curtis Cline, Online Student Success
  - ▶ Mandy Nolt, Accreditation & Assessment
  - ▶ Devon McCarty, Information Technology
  - ▶ Institutional Researcher (vacant)
  - ▶ Director of Admissions (vacant)
  - ▶ Karen Calvert, Secretary
  - ▶ Pam Johnson, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

- ▶ Evaluation of Current Program Utilizing CAS Standards for Academic Advising
  - ▶ Task force members completed the comprehensive CAS “self-study”
  - ▶ Results will be provided on AVP web site under “Faculty Resources”
- ▶ Development of surveys to be sent to Advisors and Advisees to determine their perspective on our academic advising program
- ▶ Interview of focus groups to obtain more “nuanced” feedback from specific groups
- ▶ Development of proposal in response to results of surveys and self study
- ▶ Pursue approval to implement aspects of the proposal
- ▶ Implement approved aspects
- ▶ Assess

# Initial Draft of a Mission Statement for CU Academic Advising Program

- ▶ The mission of the academic advising program at CU is to create and support dynamic educational partnerships between advisors and advisees that prepare all CU students to achieve their personal, educational, intellectual, and spiritual goals.