



## **Public Statement regarding University of Phoenix Comprehensive Evaluation**

The University of Phoenix will undergo its regularly scheduled comprehensive evaluation for continued accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission in the 2011-2012 academic year. The institution's last comprehensive review occurred in 2002. All accredited institutions are required to undergo such an evaluation at least once every ten years.

A comprehensive evaluation is a multi-layered process that requires the institution to prepare a self-study report demonstrating that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation. The Criteria outline standards of quality related to an institution's governance, business operations, academics, assessment, and services to students. Commission peer reviewers are primarily faculty and administrators from other accredited institutions of higher education, who have been selected and trained by the Commission to evaluate institutional compliance with the Criteria.

In addition, to meet its obligation to ensure quality and to comply with federal regulations, the Commission's peer reviewers will visit selected University of Phoenix campuses and locations as part of the comprehensive review. Evaluating an institution of the size, scope, and complexity of the University of Phoenix will require a team that will visit the institution's facilities across the country. This process will take approximately six months to complete. The team will conduct meetings with the institution's faculty, staff, and students engaged in online and on ground programs. Currently enrolled students will also have the opportunity to provide comments through a Commission-sponsored survey conducted by an independent survey company.

Following the visit, the findings and evaluations of the review team are presented to the Commission's decision-making body for final action. In keeping with Commission policy and practice, no outcomes of the evaluation are deemed official or made public until the conclusion of the process.

### **About the Higher Learning Commission**

The Higher Learning Commission accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. The Commission is a private, nonprofit regional accrediting agency. The Commission's mission is to assure and advance the quality of higher learning. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The institutions the Commission accredits include public, private not-for-profit, and proprietary institutions at degree levels from the associate's through the doctoral degree level and from small, specialized institutions through large research universities.

Students, parents, and others from the general public with questions regarding the Commission's work should contact John Hausaman at the Higher Learning Commission by email at [info@hlcommission.org](mailto:info@hlcommission.org) or by phone at 312-263-0456.