



**CENTRAL  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **Title III**

### **Office of Academic Planning and Assessment**

*Spring 2026*

#### **Message from the Director**

The Office of Academic Planning and Assessment (OAPA) is pleased to share this update with Central State University faculty and staff. Across academic planning, assessment, and accreditation, your work continues to strengthen institutional quality and advance student success.

This newsletter highlights three important areas of focus: preparation for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) comprehensive evaluation visit in April 2027, progress across multiple programmatic and specialized accreditations, and the evolving institutional implications of Ohio Senate Bill 1 (SB1). Each of these efforts reflects shared responsibility, collaboration, and a collective commitment to continuous improvement.

We thank you for your ongoing engagement and professionalism. The University's accreditation successes and future readiness are a direct result of your daily contributions.

#### **Section I**

##### **Preparing for the HLC Comprehensive Evaluation: April 2027**

Central State University will host its next **Higher Learning Commission comprehensive evaluation visit in April 2027**. This visit provides an opportunity to affirm institutional integrity, academic quality, and effectiveness across the University.

The HLC has recently adopted **revised Criteria for Accreditation**, moving from five criteria to **four core criteria (Criteria 1–4)**. OAPA is aligning institutional documentation, assessment evidence, and planning narratives to this updated framework.

Over the coming year, preparation efforts will emphasize:

- Clear alignment with HLC Criteria 1–4
- Evidence of meaningful assessment and continuous improvement
  - Demonstration of mission alignment and effective planning
  - Transparent communication and campus-wide engagement



OAPA will continue to share timelines, expectations, and guidance to support units throughout the preparation process.

## **Section II**

### **Accreditation Updates and Milestones**

Central State University continues to demonstrate academic excellence through successful accreditation outcomes and proactive preparation for upcoming reviews.

#### **Recent Accreditation Successes**

- **Business Administration** successfully completed **ACBSP reaffirmation**, recognizing program quality, relevance, and outcomes
- **Music** was **reaffirmed by NASM**, affirming excellence in curriculum, faculty qualifications, and student learning

#### **Upcoming Accreditation Reviews**

- **CAEP** review for educator preparation programs
- **ABET** review for engineering and industrial technology programs

OAPA works closely with academic colleges and program leadership to support accreditation through assessment coordination, data analysis, and compliance support. These efforts highlight the strength of our academic programs and the collective expertise of our faculty and staff.

## **Section III**

### **Supporting Accreditation and Continuous Improvement**

OAPA provides institution-wide support for accreditation and assessment, including:

- Assessment planning and consultation
- Data coordination and reporting support
- Alignment of program, college, and institutional outcomes
- Accreditation timeline tracking and documentation assistance

These services are designed to reduce administrative burden while strengthening institutional effectiveness and transparency.



## **Section IV**

### **Senate Bill 1 (SB1): Institutional Alignment and Support**

Ohio Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 96 introduced new expectations for public institutions of higher education, including requirements related to academic operations, reporting, and governance. OAPA is actively monitoring guidance and assessing intersections with accreditation, assessment, and planning.

Our approach focuses on:

- Alignment with statutory requirements while preserving academic integrity
  - Clear communication and guidance for academic units
- Coordination with leadership to support informed decision-making
  - Sustainable, mission-centered implementation

OAPA remains committed to serving as a resource and partner as SB1-related expectations continue to evolve.

## **Section V**

### **Moving Forward Together**

Accreditation, assessment, and planning are not isolated activities—they reflect the cumulative work of teaching, advising, scholarship, and service across the University. The successes and preparations outlined here demonstrate Central State University's resilience, professionalism, and commitment to continuous improvement.

We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to working together as we prepare for upcoming reviews and institutional milestones.

For questions or support, please contact the **Office of Academic Planning and Assessment**.