

## Countdown to HLC Week 5 Survey Results

The first Countdown to HLC survey was all about institutional accreditation. 360 UNC employees completed the survey, with 30 lucky participants selected to win a prize. Keep reading for the results.

Question	% with correct answer
<b>UNC is institutionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)</b>	96%
<b>The HLC employs professional evaluators to conduct site visits and decide whether an institution should be accredited.</b>	10% <sup>1</sup>
<b>Students can receive financial aid even if their institution is not accredited.</b>	20% <sup>2</sup>
<b>HLC institutional accreditation cycles occur every 15 years.</b>	84% <sup>3</sup>
<b>UNC's Quality Improvement Initiative, a requirement for maintaining institutional accreditation, focused on improving student retention and graduation rates.</b>	88%

<sup>1</sup>The HLC relies on a volunteer corps of peer reviewers who receive training on conducting accreditation reviews.

<sup>2</sup>This one was tricky. Students can receive some types of financial aid while attending an unaccredited institution, but in order to receive federal aid, their college must be institutionally accredited.

<sup>3</sup>The HLC uses a 10-year accreditation cycle, with a mid-cycle review in year 4.

<sup>4</sup>[You can read about UNC's quality initiative here.](#)

320 of the Week Five survey participants provided a response to the question, "What is one way institutional accreditation benefits UNC, its employees, and/or its students?"

Major Themes	Sample Comment
<b>Access to federal financial aid, research funding, and grants</b>	Financial Aid is what opens the doors for many students to attend college and without accreditation and financial aid, many students would lose that opportunity to attend college. Employees across campus would feel the impact if we did not have those students here.
<b>Institutional credibility and quality assurance</b>	Accreditation assures current and potential students that the university will deliver the services it promises and provide students with a high quality educational experience.
<b>Student outcomes and career opportunities</b>	Ensuring that learning and program outcomes are being met makes it clear to students what they are taking away from their degrees.
<b>Enrollment and retention</b>	It ensures that we are able to recruit and retain students, meaning that we all keep our jobs, and provide the best possible education for our students!
<b>Institutional improvement and reflection</b>	The accreditation process allows faculty to reexamine our processes and documentation to ensure that our curricula align with our programmatic outcomes.