What is accreditation?
- Accreditation is one of the main ways the federal government assures quality in higher education for all students, especially those who benefit from federal financial aid programs.
  - Accreditation is required for NDSCS to provide federal financial aid to our students.
- NDSCS is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) pathway.
- Every 8 years we must reaffirm our accreditation with the HLC, one of the requirements is a site visit called a Comprehensive Quality Review (CQR)

What is the CQR?
- During the CQR, peer reviewers determine if accreditation criterion are being met through reviewing required aspects of the reaffirmation process (Systems Portfolio, CQR Quality Highlights Report), institutional documents and policies, and through meeting with College employees and students.
- The CQR serves to:
  - Provide evidence that NDSCS is meeting the Criteria for Accreditation.
  - Facilitate NDSCS's continuing quality improvement commitment.
  - Identify actions taken to minimize identified Strategic Issues.
  - Review how Action Projects are integrated into NDSCS's overall performance improvement strategies.
  - Review distance and/or correspondence education delivery.

When will the CQR occur?
- April 25-26-27, 2016
- Meetings and discussions will occur throughout the College and with various stakeholders (faculty, staff, and students) – some will be scheduled, others will be impromptu.

Who conducts the CQR?
- A team of 5 peer reviewers from various institutions, some similar to NDSCS.

What should I say to the visitors?
- Be open and honest about where the College’s strengths are, what our recent accomplishments have been, and where we can improve.
- Share your assessment processes and indicators.
- The visitors may have specific questions for you and/or groups.

Where can I find out more information about the CQR?
- Please visit: https://www.ndscs.edu/accreditation-aqip
- Or for more detailed information, visit the intranet: http://intranet.ndscs.edu/categories/file_tree/aqip
- If you have more questions, please call our Accreditation Liaison Officer: Jane Vangsness Frisch 701.671.2627