Elevate × HLC 2026: internal briefing

Readiness hub | Criteria map | What we told HLC | Evidence behind Elevate | Data with caveats | What reviewers already flagged | Risk register | Rehearse | Pre-visit actions | After the visit | Glossary and references | Briefing (print)

Internal preparation. Not for distribution to reviewers. Print this page or use the PDF. Pack as of 2026-10-03.

33

days since 2026-10-13

Pre-HLC site visit focused Q&A, 10:00am-1:00pm, Kaplan Tellabs

27

days since 2026-10-19 – 2026-10-20

HLC comprehensive evaluation on site

What every stakeholder must be able to say

The 30-second statement first, then one line per criterion. Both are the pack's words; say them in your own.

> Elevate is how Illinois Tech turns its career mission into something a student can do, and something we can assess. From the first year, students follow a checklist of experiences - internships, research, competitions, study away, leadership - tracked on 312. They write a short reflection on each, which we score against three NACE competencies: career and self-development, leadership and professionalism. That is our co-curricular assessment, the area HLC asked us to fix and found Met in 2025, and Elevate, launched that October, carries the approach forward. Students who take part in career-linked activities are retained at higher rates, and next we will test whether that holds once attendance is tracked and placement is compared by participation.
>
> 117 words[1], about 44 seconds[2] aloud (target under 120 words).

1. **1.A/1.C.** Elevate is the mission in practice: relevant education that ends in opportunity, with civic and leadership experiences on the same checklist.
2. **2.B.** We publish outcomes on the Elevate site, filterable by program and year, and we describe Elevate as a commitment to access, not a guarantee of a job.
3. **3.D.** Elevate is the front door to support: success coaching, Scarlet C-Suite, fairs and experiences, all in one platform tied to Banner.
4. **3.E.** Learning, not satisfaction: reflections scored against a rubric, aggregated by competency, reviewed by CoCURR.
5. **3.G.** We report against our own goals, gaps included. Retention is below target; co-curricular engagement is associated with higher retention, and we are building the evidence.
6. **4.B/4.C.** Career services was protected in the reduction in force, and the strategic plan's Career Readiness group says internships are the proven lever. Elevate is where that lever is pulled.

Pilot uptake

Pilot totals to be added

Risk register

Risks by priority (High first); the status is kept in this browser only

Id	Risk	Where reviewers see it	Priority	Response to give	Confirm with
R01	'Guaranteed'/'promise' language conflicts with Elevate's access commitment	Assurance Argument 1.B, p. 8; E09 Elevate Initiative Overview Webpage.pdf	High	Elevate commits to access to experiences. The terms state a completion remedy, not a placement guarantee. We are aligning public wording with the terms.	ALO; Marketing & Communications
R02	'Connects every Illinois Tech student' vs opt-in pilot	Assurance Argument 2.B, p. 22	High	The hub, events and outcomes are open to all students; the structured badge pathway was an opt-in pilot for first- and second-year students.	Elevate lead
R03	Enrollment 33-50% vs 75% goal, skewed to commuters	E18 Strategic Planning Compendium - Integrated Working Draft July 2026.pdf	High	Ambitious target; learned who opted in; next iteration is first-year with a transfer track. Proposed next: residence-hall recruiting and checkpoints in advising.	Elevate lead
R04	Retention finding correlational and registration-based	E04 Cocurricular Event Participation Impact on Retention Report.pdf; Assurance Argument, p. 56	High	State limits first; next steps: QR attendance, matched comparison, FDS placement by participation.	CoCURR
R07	FDS figures differ (8 in 10, 78.1%, 81.5%)	M08 FDS figures in circulation	High	Definitions card: population, year, measure, response rate.	Career Services
R12	Mock review: incomplete evidence of student uptake	Mock review, May 2026 Criterion 3 deck	High	Bring aggregate counts (M12). No names or IDs.	Elevate lead; CoCURR
R05	Framework evidence is a draft with comments	E02 Co-Curricular Student Engagement and Success Initiative Framework - Elevate.pdf	Medium	Point to the 2024 Whitepaper (E03).	ALO
R06	1.C dashboard citation resolves to blog capture	Assurance Argument 1.C, p. 11	Medium	Be ready to show the live dashboard if asked; no unsolicited files.	Elevate lead
R08	Name collisions: Elevate College Prep; Entri Elevate	Assurance Argument 1.B, p. 7; E20 Entri Elevate Data Science Course Marketing Page.pdf	Medium	Name programs precisely; flag Entri claims as 2.B accuracy issue.	ALO; partnerships
R09	Engagement programs called fragmented	E18 Strategic Planning Compendium - Integrated Working Draft July 2026.pdf	Medium	Elevate is the spine those programs plug into: one checklist, one platform, one set of NACE LOs.	Provost's office
R10	Online/global learners get little career support	E18 Strategic Planning Compendium - Integrated Working Draft July 2026.pdf	Medium	Digital resources, AWS pathway and virtual internships open to all; online track is a post-visit design item.	Career Services
R11	Internship reporting fell 58% (2020) to 48% (2025) despite SMART goal	E15 Internships 2019-2026.pdf; Assurance Argument 3.G	Medium	Acknowledge; computing labor-market shift; employer engagement; Braven course.	Career Services
R13	Can Elevate survive the reduction in force?	Assurance Argument 4.B	Low	Career services explicitly protected; Elevate runs on 312 automation and student success coaches.	ALO

Status changes stay in this browser; nothing is sent anywhere.

Rehearsal deck

▼ **Q01. How do you know Elevate improves learning, not just participation?**

Reflections are scored against a NACE rubric, and CoCURR reviews the results and sets changes. Bring the aggregate share meeting each competency.

Point to: E01 Elevate.pdf; Assurance Argument 3.E, p. 54-55

▼ **Q02. Isn't the retention result just selection bias?**

It may partly be, and the report says so. Next, we compare matched students and track attendance, not registration.

Point to: E04 Cocurricular Event Participation Impact on Retention Report.pdf

▼ **Q03. How many students are in Elevate?**

Give the aggregate pilot count and share of the first-year class; say plainly it was 33-50% against a 75% goal and why.

Point to: E18 Strategic Planning Compendium - Integrated Working Draft July 2026.pdf; M12 Pilot aggregates (OWED)

▼ **Q04. What does the 'guarantee' mean?**

Elevate commits to access to experiences. The terms describe a remedy if a student completes every requirement; it is not an employment guarantee.

Point to: E01 Elevate.pdf

▼ **Q05. Who owns Elevate after the restructuring?**

The Experiential Learning Team with Career Services; Student Affairs manages 312. Career services was protected.

Point to: E01 Elevate.pdf; Assurance Argument 4.A; Assurance Argument 4.B

▼ **Q06. How does Elevate connect to IPRO and the curriculum?**

IPRO LOs (teamwork, communication, problem solving, ethics) align with the co-curricular LOs; competitions run through both.

Point to: E03 2024 Co-curricular Whitepaper.v4 jul2024.pdf

▼ **Q07. What about transfer, online and graduate students?**

Next iteration adds a transfer track; resources and outcomes open to all; online career support is a known gap in the strategic plan.

Point to: E01 Elevate.pdf; E18 Strategic Planning Compendium - Integrated Working Draft July 2026.pdf

▼ **Q08. How do you benchmark outcomes against peers?**

Retention about the 50th percentile and graduation about the 35th against tight AITU peers; FDS placement benchmarked against AITU.

Point to: M09 Peer benchmarks (IPEDS 2022-23)

▼ **Q09. What changed because of assessment?**

QR check-in and attendance rules for funded events, the Scarlet C-Suite assessment revision, and the move to a first-year model with a transfer track.

Point to: E05 Co-Curricular Assessment Committee (CoCURR) Meeting Minutes.pdf; Assurance Argument, p. 55

▼ **Q10. Why is the framework file full of comments?**

It was a working draft; the adopted definition is the 2024 Co-curricular Whitepaper.

Point to: E03 2024 Co-curricular Whitepaper.v4 jul2024.pdf

Pre-visit actions

Raise with the ALO · due 2026-10-13

☐ Agree the institutional answer to "guaranteed" in 1.B p8, and whether the

before the visit, through the M&C request process.

- ☐ Agree how to describe Elevate's scope ("every student" in 2.B p22) so that Career Services, Student Affairs and faculty all say the same thing.
- ☐ Confirm the source and definition of 78.1% (3.D p49) against the UG Class of 2025 page (67.7% employed full-time + 13.8% continuing = 81.5%) and the welcome note's "8 in 10".
- ☐ Note that the 1.C citation "Elevate Program initiative dashboard" resolves to the blog homepage capture, and decide what is shown if asked.
- ☐ Note that the co-curricular framework evidence file shows draft comments; agree to point reviewers to the 2024 Whitepaper.
- ☐ Flag the Entri Elevate marketing claims ("Land a Job in 6 Months", "Illinois Tech Certification") as a 2.B accuracy question for the partnership owner.
- ☐ Confirm whether Elevate staff should attend the Criterion 3 open session (Mon Oct 19, 10:00–10:50) and the Student Support Services meeting (3:00–3:50), and whether CoCURR's assessment discussion happens there.

Elevate team · due 2026-10-16

- ☐ Pull aggregate pilot numbers from 312: opt-ins, success-coach meetings held, reflections submitted and scored, badges awarded, share meeting each NACE competency. No names, IDs or individual records.
- ☐ Prepare de-identified scored reflection examples, one per competency, for the assessment meeting if requested.
- ☐ Write the one-line FDS definitions card (population, year, measure, response rate) for every figure in circulation.
- ☐ Check every public Elevate page cited in evidence is live and dated: elevate.iit.edu outcomes (UG, graduate), experiences, and events.
- ☐ Brief student success coaches and student staff on the 30-second statement and the say/avoid table; students may be asked about Elevate in the student session.
- ☐ Rehearse the three hardest questions: selection bias, 33–50% uptake, and "guarantee".

Do not

- Hand reviewers documents they did not request, including this one.
- Quote individual students or share screenshots that show student data.

Source: Master accreditation resource, 3 October 2026, 'Pre-visit action list'.

Sources on this page

1. computed from the pack's 30-second statement (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
2. computed at 160 words a minute from the word count (2026-10-03, confirmed)
3. dates.qa (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
4. dates.visit (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
5. statement_30s (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
6. one_liners 1.A/1.C (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
7. one_liners 2.B (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
8. one_liners 3.D (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
9. one_liners 3.E (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
10. one_liners 3.G (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
11. one_liners 4.B/4.C (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)

13. R02 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
14. R03 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
15. R04 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
16. R07 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
17. R12 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
18. R05 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
19. R06 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
20. R08 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
21. R09 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
22. R10 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
23. R11 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
24. R13 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
25. Q01 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
26. Q02 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
27. Q03 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
28. Q04 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
29. Q05 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
30. Q06 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
31. Q07 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
32. Q08 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
33. Q09 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
34. Q10 (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
35. pre_visit_actions.alo (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
36. pre_visit_actions.team (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)
37. pre_visit_actions.do_not (Elevate × HLC 2026 accreditation data pack) (2026-10-03, confirmed)

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