This case study examines the importance of program alignment with a university's mission and pedagogical commitment to students and articulates the unique ways in which competitive academic teams advance the mission and learning contract of the University of Central Missouri. By engaging in site-specific research that highlights how co-curricular activities such as competitive academic teams, advance the university’s mission, programs can take a proactive approach to sharing with university administration the unique ways in which they can provide data to fulfill the Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) accreditation requirements, contribute to the overall success of the university, and solidify their own position amongst the institutional community.