



WYOMING

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Annual Accreditation Report

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

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*Casper College • Central Wyoming College • Eastern Wyoming College • Laramie County Community College
Northwest College • Northern Wyoming Community College District • Western Wyoming Community College*

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY

APRIL 1, 2018 – MARCH 31, 2019

This summary is provided in compliance with W.S. 21-18-202(e)(i), which requires the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) to “report the findings of institutional and specialized accreditation studies.” Because continued North Central Association – Higher Learning Commission (HLC) institutional accreditation is reaffirmed for various periods of time and institutions applied for candidacy at various times in the past, each of the Wyoming community colleges is at a different phase of the on-going regional accreditation process. An HLC regional accreditation schedule is provided on page seven.

A schedule for specialized program accreditation status begins on page nine. Each Wyoming community college has at least one program with program accreditation agency affiliation.

ACCREDITATION BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

The Higher Learning Commission is an independent corporation. The HLC is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region. Institutional accreditation is a voluntary process that serves the critical purposes of quality assurance and institutional and program improvement. Colleges that are accredited by the HLC continually evaluate their overall institutions and programs in light of the criteria for accreditation set forth by the HLC.

THE CRITERIA FOR (HLC) ACCREDITATION **(January 1, 2013)**

The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which the WCCC determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. They are as follows:

Criterion One: Mission

The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

Criterion Two: Integrity (Ethical and Responsible Conduct)

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning (Quality, Resources, and Support)

The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning (Evaluation and Improvement)

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

The institution’s resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

PATHWAYS TO HLC REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

The HLC maintains processes for determining eligibility for accreditation, for achieving candidacy status, for achieving initial accreditation, and for reaffirming accreditation. The HLC now has three Pathways, the Standard Pathway, the Open Pathway and the AQIP Pathway.

Standard Pathway

The Standard Pathway seeks to achieve the following goals:

- To reduce the reporting burden on institutions by utilizing as much information and data as possible from existing institutional processes and collecting them in electronic form as they naturally occur over time
- To enhance rigor by checking institutional data annually (Institutional Update) and conducting comprehensive evaluations twice in the ten-year cycle
- To integrate as much as possible all HLC processes and requests for data into the reaffirmation of accreditation cycle

The Standard Pathway is available to all accredited institutions at any time, unless the institution is on Probation or under a Show-Cause order, when it follows a separate process. Some institutions are limited to the Standard Pathway. Two comprehensive evaluations take place in a ten year cycle: one in Year 4 and one in Year 10. Both quality assurance and quality improvement are integrated into these comprehensive evaluations as well as Federal Compliance. In addition, the institution addresses quality assurance and improvement through interim monitoring, as required. In the Standard Pathway, both assurance and improvement are directly related to the Criteria for Accreditation.

The components of the comprehensive evaluation in the Standard Pathway are:

1. An Assurance Review;
2. An Improvement Review;
3. A review of Federal Compliance;
4. An on-site visit; and
5. If applicable, a multi-campus review

Currently no Wyoming Community College is on the Standard Pathway.

Open Pathway

The Open Pathway seeks to achieve the following goals:

- To enhance institutional value by opening the improvement aspect of accreditation so that institutions may choose Quality Initiatives to suit their current circumstances
- To reduce the reporting burden on institutions by utilizing as much information and data as possible from existing institutional processes and collecting them in electronic form as they naturally occur over time
- To enhance rigor by checking institutional data annually (Institutional Update) and conducting Assurance Reviews twice in the ten-year cycle
- To integrate as much as possible all HLC processes and HLC requests for data into the reaffirmation of accreditation cycle.

Two Assurance Reviews take place in the ten-year cycle; one in Year 4 and one in Year 10. The Year 4 review occurs asynchronously via the HLC's online Assurance System and without a visit. The Year 10 review also is conducted with the Assurance System but includes a visit to the campus, as noted below. Between Years 5 and 9 of the ten-year cycle, the institution proposes and completes a Quality Initiative which focuses on institutional innovation and improvement.

The components of the comprehensive evaluation in the Open Pathway are:

1. An Assurance Review;

2. A review of Federal Compliance;
3. An on-site visit; and
4. If applicable, a multi-campus review.

Previous Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Pathway (Phased Out 2018)

The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) was one of several pathways leading to accreditation with the HLC. AQIP was premised on principles of continuous quality improvement, and its various processes and requirements were designed to assist institutions in achieving quality improvement, along with reaffirming the institution's accredited status with the HLC once every AQIP cycle. Due to a significant decrease in the number of participating institutions, this Pathway was sunset on October 1, 2018.

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE HLC ACCREDITATION SUMMARIES

CASPER COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Casper College hosted a successful reaffirmation of accreditation comprehensive campus visit on October 22 and 23, 2018. The HLC Institutional Actions Council, at its meeting on March 4, 2019, continued the accreditation of Casper College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2028-29. An Interim Report is due to the HLC by 10/1/ 2019 on faculty qualifications. Policy development and process improvement to address faculty qualification is already underway. The college is confident of an on time and successful interim report in October.

CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Central Wyoming College concluded its participation in HLC's 4-year Persistence and Completion Academy in May, 2018. CWC's focus in this academy was to implement a new student advising system, the "Success Coaching" model, and to develop a strong data-informed assessment system and culture.

CWC transferred from the AQIP Pathway, which HLC recently sunset, to the Open Pathway on September 1, 2018.

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) in Torrington was recommended for a ten-year reaccreditation following the HLC team visit in 2010. A focus visit was completed October 5-6, 2014 emphasizing improving ethnic diversity among students and staff. The Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission concurred with the evaluation findings and affirmed that the institution is addressing the concerns related to diversity. Eastern Wyoming College has been accepted and is participating in the Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Student Completion Academy. The next comprehensive visit will be scheduled for 2020-2021.

LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Since 2006, Laramie County Community College (LCCC) has participated in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) to maintain its accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). As part of this continuous improvement effort, LCCC worked on multiple action projects during the reporting period. Due to the phasing out of the AQIP Accreditation Pathway, and dissolution of AQIP Action Projects, HLC suspended the formal reporting on these projects on October 1, 2018. The closed projects are summarized below.

LCCC set out to design an Academic Master Plan (AMP) that provides comprehensive strategic planning for sustainable academic operations. Through analysis of the current state of academic programming and projected employment needs, the AMP will guide all facets of the college. In 2017, the college became a

member of the AACC Guided Pathways 2.0 initiative. The steering committee, formed to guide the AMP, was restructured as the Academic Enrollment Master Plan (AEMP) to oversee the work of Guided Pathways. This steering committee has established a portfolio of nine "Must Haves" for Guided Pathways, which launched as nine separate projects in Spring 2018. The Must Have Projects include 1.) Eagles Academies (meta-majors), 2.) Program Maps, 3.) General Education, v2.0, 4.) Streamlined, Effective Entry, 5.) Advising Model, 6.) Co-Requisite Developmental Math & English, 7.) Course & Program Competencies, 8.) Essential Student Experiences, and 9.) Excellence in Instruction. These Must Haves are scheduled to be completed with Guided Pathways in the Fall 2020 at which time the objectives of the original AMP will have been met. While the project is officially closed through HLC, work continues and currently the Institution is on target to meet their objectives.

LCCC has been developing an annual assessment process for its non-academic areas or functions. This Service/Support Function Continuous Improvement project developed an annual cycle that will allow functions across the Institution to demonstrate continuous improvement and develop plans for strengthening the quality of services and support they deliver. The College implemented one full cycle with initially high engagement, followed by lower engagement from functions on reporting at the end. After an internal review it was determined that, the College would enter a reflection period to verify the work done to date on the process and validate the information produced. We are now using a revised process across campus and are working to better align the process and peer review to produce meaningful data and analysis. While the project is officially closed through HLC, work continues on the second iteration of the annual process, and will work to continually improve with each cycle.

While the formal AQIP Action Project process has dissolved, LCCC continues to use their tailored project management methodology to structure, plan and coordinate initiatives across campus. This includes continued work on the previously established Action Projects as well as new initiatives established at the College. The methodology and framework for guiding projects on campus is continuously improved and adapted to facilitate project success.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (OPEN PATHWAY)

Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD), serving Sheridan, Campbell, and Johnson counties, has participated in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) form of accreditation with the HLC since 2005. With a comprehensive HLC accreditation visit in Fall 2018, the District received reaffirmation of its 10-year institutional accreditation in Spring 2019. The HLC is retiring the AQIP pathway and transitioning institutions to either "Standard" or "Open" pathways. NWCCD has chosen the Open pathway. The next milestone on the new pathway will be the submission of an Assurance Report in 2023. The next comprehensive visit will be scheduled during 2028-2029. Considerations are being made to offer applied baccalaureate degrees which will occur as part of HLC's substantive change process for new programs.

NORTHWEST COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Northwest College (NWC) in Powell had a comprehensive HLC accreditation visit on September 11-12, 2017, resulting in a reaffirmation of accreditation for the next ten years. An interim report on assessment of student learning is due in December 2019. Prior to the 2017 visit, NWC was in the Standard Pathway. Following the visit, NWC was given the option to choose a pathway for accreditation. NWC chose to follow the Open Pathway, which means NWC will submit an Assurance Argument both four years and ten years into the new cycle. The next comprehensive visit will be scheduled during 2027-28.

WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) in Rock Springs was accepted as a participant in the AQIP accreditation pathway in July, 2008. In the spring of 2018 The Higher Learning Commission made a decision to discontinue the AQIP Pathway. In June 2018 Western received official notice that it was being transitioned into year six of the Open Pathway. During the 2018-19 academic year Western worked on developing its Quality

Initiative Proposal. This proposal will be submitted by May 1, 2019. Western's Quality Initiative will coincide with years 7-9 of the Open Pathway. Western is scheduled to have its comprehensive evaluation in 2022-23.

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HLC Accreditation Schedule

(Last updated April 2019)

References: 1. W.S. 21-18-202(e) (i) and (iii)	Last Comprehensive Visit	Concerns to be Addressed at next Assurance Filing	Reports	Focused Visit	Sanctions	Next Standard or Open Pathway Site Visit
Casper College	October 2018	n/a	Interim report on faculty qualifications by 10/1/19	n/a	n/a	2028-2029
Central Wyoming College	October 2015	n/a	Assurance Filing July 2020	n/a	n/a	2025-2026
Eastern Wyoming College	October 2010			2014		2020-2021
Laramie County Community College	July 2012		Systems Portfolio submitted 2018			October 2019
Northwest College	September 2017		Interim Report on student learning assessment due December 2019			2027-2028
Northern Wyoming Community College District	October 2018					2028-2029
Western Wyoming Community College	October 2013		Quality Initiative Proposal May 2019			2022-2023

SPECIALIZED PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

All seven community colleges offer credit programs which culminate in an Associate Degree or Certificate that are accredited by thirty-one accreditation agencies, associations, boards, commissions, councils, or societies, each specific to an individual program. The seven Wyoming community colleges have a total of 36 programs that have full accreditation status. The accreditation status of each of those 36 programs are documented below.

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Community College	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>
Name of Program	Addictionology	Art	Business and Accounting	Dance	Early Childhood Education
Name of Program Accreditor	National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission	National Association of Schools of Art and Design	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs	National Association of Schools of Dance	National Association for the Education of Young Children
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2013	2018	2010	2018	2017
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	None	None	None
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2019-2020	2028-2029	2020	2028-2029	2019

Community College	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>
Name of Program	Health Science Simulation Center	Medical Lab Technology	Music	Nursing	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Name of Program Accrator	Society for Simulation in Healthcare	National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	National Association of Schools of Music	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing	Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
Date of Last Program Accrator Action	2016	2019	2009	2019	2013
Current Accreditation Status	Accredited	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	No	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	Comprehensive review/campus visit 10/2019	None	Annual Report
Concerns Accrator Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2021	2026	2019	TBD	2021-2022

Community College	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Casper College</i>
Name of Program	Paralegal Studies	Paramedic Technology	Pharmacy Technology	Radiography	Respiratory Therapy
Name of Program Accreditor	American Bar Association	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs	American Society of Health System Pharmacists	Joint Review Committee on Higher Education in Radiologic Technology	Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2016	2018	2013	2016	2015
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	None	Annual	Annual report
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2022	2021	2019	2/1/2024	2024-2025

Community College	<i>Casper College</i>	<i>Central Wyoming College</i>	<i>Eastern Wyoming College</i>	<i>Eastern Wyoming College</i>	<i>Eastern Wyoming College</i>
Name of Program	Theatre	Associate Degree Nursing Program	Veterinary Technology	Welding and Joining Technology	Nursing
Name of Program Accreditor	National Association of Schools of Theatre	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	American Veterinary Medical Association	American Welding Society	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2010	March 2016	October 2017	2018	August 2018
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Full	Full	Full
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	None	None	None
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2020-2021	Fall 2021	2020	2019	2028

Community College	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>
Name of Program	Concurrent Enrollment	Dental Hygiene	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	EMS - Paramedic	Nursing
Name of Program Accreditor	National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)	Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP/ CoAEMSP)	Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	April 2016	August 2017	Spring 2014	May 2015	March 2012
Current Accreditation Status	Initial Accreditation	Approval without reporting requirements	Continuing Accreditation	Continuing Accreditation	Continuing Accreditation
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Annual Report	None	Annual Report	Self-Study Fall 2019	Annual Report October 2019 Self-Study 2019
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2022	2024	July 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2019

Community College	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Northern Wyoming Community College District</i>	<i>Northern Wyoming Community College District</i>
Name of Program	Physical Therapist Assistant	Radiography	Surgical Technology	Dental Hygiene	Nursing
Name of Program Accreditor	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA, CODA)	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	May 2016	Fall 2016	Fall 2013	Spring 2017	Spring 2019
Current Accreditation Status	Continuing Accreditation	Continuing Accreditation	Continuing Accreditation	Approval Without Reporting Requirements	Continuing Accreditation as the program is in compliance with all Accreditation Standards
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Annual Report	Annual Report	Annual Report	Annual CODA Survey	None
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	Fall 2024	2024	2023	Spring 2024	Spring 2027

Community College	<i>Northwest College</i>	<i>Northwest College</i>	<i>Northwest College</i>	<i>Western Wyoming Community College</i>	<i>Western Wyoming Community College</i>
Name of Program	Art; Graphic Design	Music; Music Technology	Nursing	Associate Degree in Nursing	Automotive
Name of Program Accreditor	National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD)	National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	ASE Educational Foundation
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	November 13, 2014	2012	July 15, 2014	April 2017	October 2017
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Continued Accreditation	Good standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Annual HEADS data survey	Annual HEADS data survey; on-going follow-up on acoustic remedies to the Nelson Performing Arts building as specified in the 2012 self-study memo	Annual Report	Annual Report due each fall	Compliance Report Spring 2020. Accreditation renewal Fall 2022
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	Criterion 3.6 and 4.2 (Resolved with ReNEW Outcomes update Summer 2017).	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2020	2021-22	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2022

Community College	<i>Western Wyoming Community College</i>
Name of Program	Music
Name of Program Accreditor	National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	Initial candidacy visit was April 30 and May 1, 2018
Current Accreditation Status	The Commission voted to defer action pending response to the concerns stated in the Visitors' Report
Current Sanctions	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Visitor's Report in June 2018. NASM Commission will review the results of the report. WWCC received findings in late December 2018
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	Any concerns stated in the Visitor's Report WWCC will be addressed in a report to the NASM by late October 2019
Date of Next Reaccreditation	N/A