



WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Annual Accreditation Report *July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015*

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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

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

This summary is provided in compliance with W.S. 21-18-202(e)(i), which requires the Community College Commission 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. A Higher Learning Commission regional accreditation schedule is provided on page six.

A schedule for specialized program accreditation status begins on page seven. Each Wyoming community college has two or more programs with program accreditation agency affiliation.

ACCREDITATION BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). 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 Commission 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 Commission maintains processes for determining eligibility for accreditation, for achieving candidacy status, for achieving initial accreditation, and for maintaining accreditation. The Commission is now replacing PEAQ with two new Pathways, the Standard Pathway and the Open Pathway. The AQIP Pathway will continue largely unchanged.

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

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 Commission'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.

Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Pathway

The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) is one of several pathways leading to accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. Others include the Open and Standard Pathways. AQIP differs from the other pathways in that it is premised on principles of continuous quality improvement, and its various processes and requirements are designed to assist institutions in achieving quality improvement, along with reaffirming the institution's accredited status with the Commission once every AQIP cycle. Many institutions have reported transforming their quality cultures since embarking on the AQIP Pathway. Federal compliance is reviewed.

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE HLC ACCREDITATION SUMMARIES

CASPER COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Casper College completed the comprehensive evaluation process and was approved for continued accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in August 2009. A required progress report on general education was submitted in June 2012. A response was received from the Higher Learning Commission in July 2012 requesting further progress reporting on the plan to focus and assess general education outcomes. Casper College has narrowed outcomes to 8 and conducted initial institutional assessment of outcomes utilizing the AAC&U VALUE rubrics. Casper College submitted a further progress report to the HLC in June 2014. The report was accepted with no conditions. Casper College has no reporting required by the Higher Learning Commission before the next comprehensive visit scheduled for 2018-19.

CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Central Wyoming College (CWC) in Riverton served as a Pioneer Institution for the Higher Learning Commission in the Pathways Construction Project, the new model for continued accreditation. CWC is one of 23 institutions that conducted the Pathways Assurance Process and the Pathways Improvement Process with the Lumina Degree Qualifications Framework serving as the Quality Initiative for the Pathways Demonstration Project. The Quality Initiative report was accepted by the Higher Learning Commission in August 2013. Central Wyoming College has been accepted and is participating in the first cohort of the four-year Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Completion Academy.

Central Wyoming College's next comprehensive visit is scheduled for October 5-6, 2015.

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 (AQIP PATHWAY)

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) has participated in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) to maintain its accreditation since 2006. In October 2014, LCCC published the second edition of its systems portfolio, which describes processes, results, and improvements in six categories, as well as providing evidence that the College continues to meet accreditation criteria. In February 2015 the College received the Higher Learning Commission's AQIP Systems Appraisal Feedback Report that verified the institution's compliance with HLC accreditation criteria and included recommendations for improvements from peer reviewers. The College is developing a plan to strengthen areas identified for improvement by reviewers. A comprehensive and systematic improvement process will be implemented that uses data feedback reporting to show progress. The continuous improvement activity will strengthen the institution and provide information for developing LCCC's next Systems Portfolio, due in 2018-19, and to prepare for AQIP's Comprehensive Quality Review of LCCC scheduled for 2019-2020.

In addition to the systems portfolio, LCCC worked on several action projects during the 2014-2015 academic year. These are summarized below.

Through the Curriculum Redesign project, LCCC faculty redesigned the College's general education curriculum, as well as curriculum development and approval processes, to ensure that approved courses are competency based and to develop stronger quality assurance of student learning. Faculty also reviewed all programs of study, substantially redesigning most, so that the curricula align with recently adopted policy and procedure that establish criteria for degree and certificate programs. These changes are reflected in LCCC's *2015-2016 Catalog* (found at <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/academics/schedule/index.aspx>).

The Starfish Retention Implementation project is an extension of the Holistic Advising Program, which was implemented through an action project in the previous year. Starfish is an early alert/retention program that increases student retention and completion through early intervention, enhances student/advisor and student/instructor relationships, and increases course success rates by decreasing withdrawal and failure rates. This system was piloted during the spring 2015 semester and will be fully implemented by spring 2016.

The project to Develop a Non-Academic Program Review Process is a companion to work done the previous year to revise and implement its comprehensive review process for academic programs of study. During the reporting period, relevant policy and procedure were adopted and review criteria were developed and incorporated into LCCC's online continuous improvement management system. Selected non-academic programs will begin the review process in the fall 2015 semester.

Through the Carnegie Pathways Program project, LCCC math faculty developed the structures and processes needed to implement Carnegie Statway™ and Quantway™ curricula. These pathways are designed to improve success of remedial students by providing concepts that are applied in context. Students can move to a college-level math course, necessary for degree completion, after only one semester of remedial math. The first Statway™ course was offered during the spring 2015 semester and the first Quantway™ course will be offered in the fall 2015 semester.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (AQIP 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 Higher Learning Commission since 2005. The District will submit its third Systems Portfolio in early fall 2015. A response to the Portfolio is expected in spring 2016. With the official process of reaffirmation of accreditation coming in 2018-2019, the institutional will send a team to the Strategy Forum in fall 2016 and prepare for the site visit in fall 2017.

The District continues to work on Action Projects. Two of our active projects, *Assessing General Education: A Re-Evaluation of Core Abilities* and *Developing and Implementing Writing Intensive Courses in NWCCD Curriculum*, are directly related to student learning. Our third active project is *Developing a Process Addressing Alcohol, Drug and Sexual Assault Awareness*. The District has retired 19 projects.

NORTHWEST COLLEGE (STANDARD PATHWAY)

Northwest College (NWC) is fully accredited through 2018. The comprehensive PEAQ evaluation on November 15-17, 2010 resulted in recommendations in regard to assessment of student learning, governance, and planning. A focused visit in March 2013 resulted in a recommendation for no further reporting until the next scheduled comprehensive evaluation. The Higher Learning Commission has placed NWC into the Standard Pathway for reaffirmation.

WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE (AQIP PATHWAY)

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) in Rock Springs was accepted as a participant in the AQIP accreditation pathway in July, 2008. Reaffirmation of Accreditation through the AQIP Pathway is on an eight year cycle. A comprehensive Systems Portfolio is due twice in the cycle. Western submitted its first Systems Portfolio in May 2012; our second Systems Portfolio is due in June, 2017, and the process for completing that project is already underway. A team will attend a Strategy Forum in the 2015-2016 academic year. In accordance with AQIP requirements, and in a quest for continuous quality improvement, Western maintains a minimum of three active action projects during each academic year, with annual updates submitted to the Higher Learning Commission. In this past year, our action projects focused on Academic Rigor, Student Course Evaluations, and Intrusive Advising; in the 2015-2016 academic year, we will continue our focus on Academic Rigor, and will also work on a General Education redesign project. Western was accepted into the HLC Persistence and Completion Academy, and these efforts will comprise our third action project for the next few years.

HLC Accreditation Schedule

(Last updated: August 2015)

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, Open, or AQIP Pathway Site Visit
Casper College	March 2009					2018-2019
Central Wyoming College	October 2005					2015-2016
Eastern Wyoming College	October 2010			2014		2020-2021
Laramie County Community College	July 2012		Systems Portfolio submitted 2018-2019			2019-2020
Northwest College	November 2010			2013		2017-2018
Northern Wyoming Community College District	November 2010		Systems Portfolio due Nov 2015			2018-2019
Western Wyoming Community College	October 2013		Systems Portfolio due June 2017			2021-2022

SPECIALIZED PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

All seven community colleges offer credit programs which culminate in an Associate Degree or Certificate which 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 32 programs that have full accreditation status, one program with “Candidacy” status and one program with “Associate Membership” status. The accreditation status of each of those thirty-four programs are documented below.

Name of Program	Music	Theatre	Dance	Art	Early Childhood Education	Business and Accounting
Community College	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	National Association of Schools of Music	National Association of Schools of Theatre	National Association of Schools of Dance	National Association of Schools of Art and Design	National Association for the Education of Young Children	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2009	2010	2013	2009	2008	2010
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Associate Membership	Good Standing	Candidacy	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	Standards review of dance coordinator's teaching load; update on assessment	None	N/A	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	Voluntary Consultative Visit scheduled for September 8-9, 2015 to review Graphic Design degree and new building planning	N/A	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	Progress Report due 9-15	None	Self Study	Quality Assurance Report - 2016
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	Teaching loads; Publication of Assessment in Student Handbook	None	N/A	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2019-2020	2020-2021	2018-2019	2018-2019	2016	2020

Name of Program	Paralegal Studies	Nursing	Nursing	Radiography	Occupational Therapy Assistant	Respiratory Therapy
Community College	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	American Bar Association	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing	Wyoming State Board of Nursing	Joint Review Committee on Higher Education in Radiologic Technology	Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education	Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2008	2011	2011	2007	2013	2015
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	none	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Standard update 10/15/15	Followup report on pass rate 8/15, Annual Report 11/15, Planned Substantive Change report 3/16 or 4/16	WSBN annual report will be due the October 31, 2015	Self-study summer 15, Interim Annual report 3/16	N/A	Annual report 7/15
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2015	2019	2019	2015	2018-2019	2024-2025

Name of Program	Pharmacy Technology	Medical Lab Technology	Paramedic Technology	Addictionology	Associate Degree Nursing Program
Community College	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Casper College</u>	<u>Central Wyoming College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	American Society of Health System Pharmacists	National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs	National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2013	2012	2011	2013	July 2013
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good Standing	Good standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	Follow up report due October 2015 addressing non-compliance with Standard Two: Faculty
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Mid-term report 2016	Annual report Fall 15; self study 2018	Self-study 7/15, Annual Report 12/15	1/1/2016	Follow up report due October 2015 addressing non-compliance with Standard Two: Faculty
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	During reaccreditation visit in February 2013 not all full time faculty had completed the required Master's degree. Those without the required degree had education plans in place and were on track to graduate the year following the site visit. Continuing accreditation was granted with a Follow Up Report required in two years - fall 2015. At the current time, all full time faculty hold the required level of educational preparation, and the program is in full compliance with all accreditation standards.
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2019	2019	2016	3/1/2016	Spring 2021

Name of Program	Veterinary Technology	Welding and Joining Technology	Nursing	Dental Hygiene	EMS - Paramedic
Community College	<u>Eastern Wyoming College</u>	<u>Eastern Wyoming College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	American Veterinary Medical Association	American Welding Society	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)	The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP/ CoAEMSP)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	2015 April	2015 April	March 2012	June 2010	May 2015
Current Accreditation Status	Full	Full	Continuing Accreditation	Approval without reporting requirements	Continuing Accreditation
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None	None	On-site visit Spring 2015
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Program Report September 2015	None	Annual Report	Self-study 2016	Self-study
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	Two critical and three major deficiencies require action	None	none	none	none
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2017	2018	Fall 2019	2017	2020

Name of Program	Physical Therapist Assistant	Radiography	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Surgical Technology	Paralegal
Community College	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>	<u>Laramie County Community College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)	Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)	The Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	The Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)	American Bar Association (ABA)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	February 2015	Fall 2008	Spring 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2007
Current Accreditation Status	Continuing Accreditation	Accreditation for a Period of Eight Years	Continuing Accreditation	Continuing Accreditation	Approved
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	On-site visit Fall 2016	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	Compliance Report Aug. 2015 and Feb. 2016	Self-study March 2016	Annual Report	Annual Report	Revised Reapproval Report May 2015
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	Compliance Report	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	Fall 2015	2016	2019	2023	2015

Name of Program	Nursing	Dental Hygiene	Art (Associate of Arts)	Music (Associate of Arts)	Nursing (Associate of Applied Science)	Nursing	Automotive
Community College	<u>Northern Wyoming Community College District</u>	<u>Northern Wyoming Community College District</u>	<u>Northwest College</u>	<u>Northwest College</u>	<u>Northwest College</u>	<u>Western Wyoming Community College</u>	<u>Western Wyoming Community College</u>
Name of Program Accreditor	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA, CODA)	NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art & Design)	NASM (National Association of Schools of Music)	ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, formerly NLNAC)	Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
Date of Last Program Accreditor Action	March 13, 2014	April 21, 2010	November 13, 2014	2012	July 15, 2014	February 3-5, 2015	September 1, 2011
Current Accreditation Status	Continuing Accreditation ; Accepted Follow-up Report	Approval without reporting requirements	Accredited Institutional Member in good standing	Accredited Institutional Member in good standing	Full Accreditation	Recommendation for Accreditation	In Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	None currently	None currently	None	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	Starting self-study document fall 2015, Annual CODA report September 2015	2015-16 HEADS data survey, 1/31/16	2015-16 HEADS data survey, 1/31/16 and on-going follow-up on acoustic remedies to the NPA as specified in the 2012 self-study memo.	Annual Report	Annual Report due in October	None
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None Current	None	None at this time	None currently	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	Spring 2019	2017	November 2019	2021-22	Fall 2019	2020	2016