



WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Annual Accreditation Report

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

**WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION
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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, 2019 – MARCH 31, 2020

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 institutional 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

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

An institution on the Standard Pathway shall have its accreditation reaffirmed every ten years except for an institution that has received initial accreditation after its most recent comprehensive evaluation. Subsequent to initial accreditation, reaffirmation shall occur not more than four years after the initial accreditation action. Reaffirmation for all other institutions on the Standard Pathway shall be contingent on the institution having undergone comprehensive evaluations in years four and ten of the cycle through a process that assures the higher education community and the public that the institution continues to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance Requirements, and that the institution demonstrates a focus on continuing improvement.

Subsequent to reaffirmation, the Commission will also renew the institution's assignment to the Standard Pathway or declare it eligible to choose another Pathway. Renewal of assignment to the Standard Pathway will be contingent on the institution demonstrating that it meets the Criteria for Accreditation and the Federal Compliance Requirements, and not receiving an action involving show-cause, probation, or withdrawal. An institution on the Standard Pathway declared eligible to choose another Pathway may move to that pathway subsequent to reaffirmation provided it files a letter of acceptance within a limited timeframe as required by the requirements of the pathway being sought. The institution may also choose to remain on the Standard Pathway.

Open Pathway

An institution on the Open Pathway shall have its accreditation reaffirmed every ten years. Reaffirmation shall be contingent on the institution having undergone an Assurance Review in year four of the cycle and a comprehensive evaluation in year ten of the cycle through processes that assure the higher education community and the public that the institution continues to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and the Federal Compliance Requirements, and demonstrates a focus on continuing improvement.

At reaffirmation, the Commission will determine whether to renew the institution's eligibility for the Open Pathway. An institution may lose eligibility for the Open Pathway if serious concerns arise about the institution's capacity to continue to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance Requirements; the institution needs to be monitored more closely through the processes of the Standard Pathway; or the institution does not fulfill the requirements of the Open Pathway, including those of the Quality Initiative.

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.

Source: Higher Learning Commission Website: hlcommission.org

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE HLC ACCREDITATION SUMMARIES

CASPER COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Casper College's institutional accreditation was continued by the HLC Institutional Actions Council, at its meeting on March 4, 2019. The next Reaffirmation of Accreditation for Casper College will be in 2028-29. An Interim Report on faculty qualifications was submitted to the HLC on 10/1/ 2019. It was accepted with no qualifications. The next substantial HLC action for Casper College is a mid-cycle review (remote) in the fall of 2022 (Assurance System lock 8.1.22).

CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Central Wyoming College submitted a substantive change request in September 2019 to offer its first Bachelor's degree. A focused visit took place in December 2019 and the degree offering, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management and Leadership, was approved in March 2020.

CWC is currently working on preparing our mid-cycle assurance filing due in July, 2020.

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)

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) hosted an HLC Comprehensive Quality Review on October 7-8, 2019. HLC re-affirmed LCCC's accreditation on March 20, 2020 with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2029-30. LCCC transferred from the AQIP Pathway, which HLC closed in October 2018, to the Open Pathway in March 30, 2020. The first Open Pathway Assurance Argument is due in August 2023.

An Interim Report is due to the HLC by 12/31/ 2021 on timeline and process used to ensure the quality of distance (online) courses. The College is developing its plan to ensure quality in distance courses and will deliver a successful interim report before the HLC deadline.

On May 8, 2020, HLC approved two bachelor of applied science degrees for Applied Management and Healthcare Administration.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (OPEN PATHWAY)

Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD), serving Sheridan, Campbell, and Johnson counties, had a comprehensive HLC accreditation visit in Fall 2018. NWCCD received reaffirmation of its 10-year institutional accreditation in Spring 2019. NWCCD has transitioned from the Standard pathway to 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. NWC submitted an interim report on assessment of student learning in December 2019. HLC responded that NWC's progress satisfied their requirements and no additional reporting on this topic is required. 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 2020)

| 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 accepted with no qualifications 10.1.19 | n/a | n/a | 2028-2029 |
| Central Wyoming College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2015 • BAS Site Visit January 2020 | n/a | Assurance Filing July 2020 | n/a | n/a | 2025-2026 |
| Eastern Wyoming College | October 2010 | | | 2014 | | 2020-2021 |
| Laramie County Community College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2019 • BAS Site Visit January 2020 | n/a | Interim report: on ensuring the quality of distance (online) courses | n/a | n/a | 2029-2030 |
| Northwest College | September 2017 | | Interim Report on student learning assessment submitted December 2019; satisfied HLC requirements | | | 2027-2028 |
| Northern Wyoming Community College District | October 2018 | | | | | 2028-2029 |

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|--|--------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| 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 | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> |
| 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 | 2019 | 2018 | 2010 | 2018 | 2019 |
| 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 | 2027 | 2028-2029 | 2020 | 2028-2029 | 2024 |

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|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Community College | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> |
| Name of Program | Health Science Simulation Center | Medical Lab Technology | Music | Nursing | Occupational Therapy Assistant |
| Name of Program Accreditor | 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 Accreditor Action | 2016 | 2019 | 2019 | 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 | None | None | Annual Report |
| Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed | None | None | None | None | None |
| Date of Next Reaccreditation | 2021 | 2026 | 2029 | 2027 | 2021-2022 |

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|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Community College | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Casper College</u> |
| 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 | 2020-2021 | 2/1/2024 | 2024-2025 |

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|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Community College | <u>Casper College</u> | <u>Central Wyoming College</u> | <u>Eastern Wyoming College</u> | <u>Eastern Wyoming College</u> | <u>Eastern Wyoming College</u> |
| 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 | March 2020 |
| 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 | Fall 2023 | 2019 | 2023 |

| 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 | 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 | November 2019 | May 2015 | April 2020 |
| 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 2021 |
| Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed | None | None | None | None | None |
| Date of Next Reaccreditation | 2022 | 2024 | July 2024 | Spring 2020 | Fall 2027 |

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|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Community College | <u>Laramie County Community College</u> | <u>Laramie County Community College</u> | <u>Laramie County Community College</u> | <u>Northern Wyoming Community College District</u> | <u>Northern Wyoming Community College District</u> |
| 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 |

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|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Community College | <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 | 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 | March 2020 | March 2020 | October 2017 |
| Current Accreditation Status | Good Standing | Good Standing | Good Standing | Pending Continued Accreditation Notification | 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 (January 31); Annual Affirmation Statement (July 1) | Annual Report | Annual Report due each fall | Compliance Report Spring 2020. Accreditation renewal Fall 2022 |
| Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed | None | None | None | Pending Results | None |
| Date of Next Reaccreditation | 2020 | 2021-22 (tentatively scheduled for spring 2022) | Fall 2027 | TBD Pending Final Report | Fall 2022 |

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|---|--|
| Community College | <u>Western Wyoming Community College</u> |
| Name of Program | Paramedicine |
| Name of Program Accreditor | Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP/CoAEMSP) |
| Date of Last Program Accreditor Action | Letter of Review received from COAEMSP, April 15, 2020 |
| Current Accreditation Status | Satisfactory progress towards accreditation (COAEMSP) |
| Current Sanctions | None |
| Required Special Visit(s) | None |
| Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date | Annual Outcomes Report Due March 2021 |
| Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed | None |
| Date of Next Reaccreditation | N/A |