

Northwest Commission on College and Universities (NWCCU) Annual Update for WSQA Academic Year 2013, 2014

Due November 6, 2015

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Accreditation recommendations to the College and year of recommendation	Actions taken by the college to address recommendations	Improvement results
The College hosted a <i>Year Seven Comprehensive</i> site visit in October 2013, which resulted in five recommendations. SCC submitted an ad-hoc report in September 2014 to address Recommendations 1, 2, 4, and 5. With regard to Recommendation 3, the Commission requested the College provide relevant documentation by March 3, 2014, to verify compliance with Standard 2.A.8.		
The Commission determined that the College had met its expectations in regard to Recommendations 3, 4 and 5. The Commission requested the College once again to submit an Ad Hoc Report to address Recommendations 1 and 2 by October 15, 2015.		

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1. The evaluation committee recommends that for each year of operation, the College undergo an external financial audit and that the results from such audits, including findings and management letter recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees. (Eligibility Requirement 19; Standard 2.F.7)	1. The College has restated its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles required for business-type activities and contracted with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) to conduct independent financial audits each year of operation.	The first independent audit was completed in June 2015 which resulted in a clean audit.
2. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution develops systematic and college-wide means to assess the student learning outcomes associated with general education and demonstrate that these data are used to inform decision-making. It is further recommended that the institution develop a systematic and college-wide means to assess the student learning outcomes of programs in relation to the institution's mission and demonstrate that these data are used to inform decision-making at that level. (Standard 2.C.2, 2.C.9, 2.C.10; 4.A.1, and 4.A2)	 2a. The president convened a standing assessment committee consisting of faculty, instructional deans, and ex-officio members representing institutional research and curriculum. The committee was charged with developing, implementing, and overseeing a collegewide comprehensive process to assess student learning outcomes at the course, program, and college-wide level that is purposeful, systematic, and faculty-driven. 2b. To address the second half of the recommendation, the College implemented a program review process to evaluate instructional and student services programs. 	 2a. Through a faculty-led effort, the College adopted a three-year assessment cycle to assess one general education learning outcome per year. The College began its assessment process with <i>problem solving</i> in 2014-15 to be followed by <i>communication, global awareness,</i> and <i>responsibility</i> in subsequent years. Based on the assessment results, the College's made several changes to its assessment process of communication in 2015-16. The College will also use the results to focus its efforts in year two of the problem-solving cycle to develop and implement strategies to improve teaching and learning. 2b. During the 2014-15 academic year, a total of 12 instructional programs and 5 student services programs completed program review. The data and results from the 2014-15 program review process were used to make and implement improvements.