



ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

Title: Academic Rigor At Western; 1000/2000 Course Curriculum Basic Curriculum vs. 3000/4000 Upper Division Curriculum

Evidence Type: Corroborating

Date:

WAN: 22-0443

Classification: Resource

PII: No

Redacted: No



Academic Rigor at Western Wyoming Community College

Academic rigor can be cultivated by differing classroom environments/philosophies and educational practices. Academic rigor is not as simple as having bright, dedicated, and hardworking students, but is instead determined by classroom environments and processes that can be refined. We define rigorous course practices as teaching practices and coursework that challenge learners to sustain a deep connection to the subject matter and to think in increasingly complex ways about the course content and its applications. These differences then become salient when a student is pursuing an Associate’s degree versus our Bachelor of Applied Science.

	1000/2000 Level Courses Basic Curriculum	3000/4000 Level Courses Upper Division Curriculum
Breadth vs. Depth	Academic Pre-Requisites or providing breadth, enrichment and/or general knowledge.	In-depth study of specific discipline theories and methods, also students develop an understanding of limitations of the field.
	Breadth is defined by giving understanding of the field or discipline or learning how this fits into a broader category.	Depth is defined by giving an understanding of a specific field of study. It is crucial for a student to master and understand lower level courses as the advanced learning in upper level courses will expand upon the discipline.
General Education and Foundation	Students will learn principles, terms, methods, perspectives, etc. as a basis for more advanced work. These are expected to be completed within the student's first two years.	Students build upon basic principles and methods and apply these skills more discerningly or in more challenging contexts. Through meeting pre-requisites, advanced standing, GPA requirements, etc. for the BAS program.
	Skills, attitudes and basic critical thinking are developed with many different fields in mind for the students.	Skills become advanced in their specific professional abilities to enable success in the program and their particular field or professional practice.
Format	Lecture format is typical.	Class discussion and/or application is expected.
Assessment	Multiple Choice/True False Type Exams are more common.	Assessments demonstrate greater knowledge and complexity; More targeted toward career and application of knowledge.