



ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

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WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Annual Accreditation Report

April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

**WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION
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*Casper College • Central Wyoming College • Eastern Wyoming College • Gillette College • Laramie County Community College
Northwest College • Northern Wyoming Community College District • Western Wyoming Community College*

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY

APRIL 1, 2021 – MARCH 31, 2022

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 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 accreditation schedule is provided on page six.

A schedule for specialized program accreditation status begins on page eight. 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 institutional accreditors in the United States. 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 **(September 1, 2020)**

The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which the HLC 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 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: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

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.

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 two Pathways, the Standard Pathway and the Open 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 is preparing for its 4-year Assurance Review in April of 2023. This Mid-cycle review entails a peer review of the assurance argument filing, a recommendation by the peer team, and official feedback from the Higher Learning Commission.

CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Central Wyoming College completed its 4-year Assurance Review in July, 2020. This mid-cycle review entailed submitting an Assurance Filing as well as an assessment by peer reviewers. CWC met all criteria, and no additional monitoring was recommended.

CWC also hosted a peer review visit in December, 2019 as part of its application to offer a Baccalaureate degree. The college's first four-year degree was approved by HLC in March, 2020, and the college began offering a BAS in Organizational Management and Leadership in Fall 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. The last comprehensive visit was completed in November 2020. Eastern Wyoming College is participating in the Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Student Completion Academy. The next report date will be in February 2023 and the next comprehensive visit will be scheduled for 2030-2031.

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 on March 30, 2020. The first Open Pathway Assurance Review is scheduled for June 3, 2024.

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

The Interim Report on timeline and process used to ensure the quality of distance (online) courses was submitted in December 2021 and was reviewed by HLC with no requirement for additional reporting. The College will continue to follow its plan to ensure quality in distance courses, complete staff training for Magna

Online course, and Evaluate Online Teaching, and will provide specific data pertaining to this progress as part of the 2024 Assurance Review.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (OPEN PATHWAY)

Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD), 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, which resulted in the college's reaffirmation of accreditation for the next ten years. NWC moved from the Standard Pathway to the Open Pathway as a result of the 2017 visit. After that visit, an interim report on assessment of student learning was requested and subsequently submitted in December 2019. That report was reviewed, and no additional monitoring was requested. Additionally, Northwest College was approved to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in January 2021. Northwest College's next scheduled review is an Assurance Review scheduled for July 2022. NWC's next comprehensive visit will occur in 2027-28.

WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE (OPEN PATHWAY)

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) in Rock Springs is in the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Open Pathway. Western is scheduled to have its next Comprehensive Evaluation on November 7 & 8, 2022. Western completed a mock peer review in the spring of 2022 and will complete final editing of its HLC assurance arguments in the summer of 2022. Western submitted its Quality Initiative report to HLC on June 1, 2022.

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HLC Accreditation Schedule

(Last updated May 2022)

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	Assurance Review April 2023	n/a	n/a	2028-2029
Central Wyoming College	October 2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2025-2026
Eastern Wyoming College	November 2020	n/a	February 2023	n/a	n/a	2030-2031
Laramie County Community College	October 2019	n/a	Assurance Review June 2024	n/a	n/a	2029-2030
Northwest College	September 2017	n/a	Interim Report on student learning assessment December 2019; Assurance Review 2022			2027-2028
Northern Wyoming Community College District	October 2018	n/a	Assurance Review 2023	n/a	n/a	2028-2029
Western Wyoming Community College	October 2013	n/a	Quality Initiative Report submitted June 1, 2022	n/a	n/a	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	2020	2018	2010	2018	2017
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	No Longer Seeking Accreditation	Good Standing	Good Standing
Current Sanctions	None	None	NA	None	None
Required Special Visit(s)	None	None	NA	None	None
Upcoming Report(s) Including Type & Date	None	None	NA	None	None
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	NA	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2027	2028-2029	NA	2028-2029	2023-2024

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	2021	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	Comprehensive review/campus visit 10/2019	None	Annual Report
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	2026	2026	2029	2027	May 2022

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	2021	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	2022	2027	2024	2024-2025

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 2022	October 2017	2020	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	2022	Fall 2029	February 2023	2021	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	Site visit October 2021	March 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	None	None	Annual Report	Annual Report	Annual Report
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	Decision not to	2024	July 2024	Decision pending	Fall 2027

	pursue re- accreditation in 2022- 2023			CAAHEP's Commission meeting Spring 2022	
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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	April 2017	November 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	Annual ACEN Report-Fall 2022 Annual WY Board of Nursing Report-Fall 2022

Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None
Date of Next Reaccreditation	Fall 2024	Fall 2024	2023	Spring 2025	Spring 2027

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	Fall 2021 (Waiting for final NASAD report)	March 28, 2022 (Waiting for final NASM report)	April 2020	March 2020	October 2017
Current Accreditation Status	Good Standing	Good Standing	Continued Accreditation	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 submitted Spring 2020. Accreditation renewal Fall 2022
Concerns Accreditor Requires to be Addressed	None	None	None	None	None

Date of Next Reaccreditation	Waiting for final report	Waiting for final report	Fall 2027	Spring 2028	Fall 2022
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