



Northwest Commission on College and University (NWCCU)
Annual Update for WSQA
Academic Year 2016-2017
Due October 30, 2017

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Accreditation recommendations to the College and year of recommendation	Actions taken by the college to address recommendations	Improvement results
Grays Harbor College is addressing four recommendations from its Year Three Resources and Capacity Accreditation Peer Evaluation submitted in the spring of 2014. The Year Three Self Evaluation Report along with the Commendations and Recommendations that resulted can be found on the Grays Harbor Accreditation Web Page .		
Recommendation 1		
The evaluation committee recommends that Grays Harbor College continue to build and develop the process of mission fulfillment with the well-crafted Mission Fulfillment Snapshot as a tool to share with stakeholders and to build an overall system of monitoring improvement of	Currently in its second year as an oversight body, the Grays Harbor Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) ensures the implementation of the Mission, Core Themes, and Strategic Plans. The SPC provides support and accountability for the college's four Core Themes and five Topic Specific Areas with	The Strategic Planning Process, including the Scorecard and related data, has helped the College to identify several improvements directly tied to Core Theme Achievement and to implement action plans to address these issues. Examples Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing/Improving the quality of on-line offerings

<p>the College’s progress moving forward (Standard 1.B.2).</p>	<p>regular meetings and on-going assessment and reporting.</p> <p>Additionally, the College’s Scorecard remains the high-level assessment tool that helps to drive Core Theme Action Plans. Core Theme indicators are reviewed and revised as necessary to provide actionable information in support of Core Theme Achievement/Mission Fulfillment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing/improving access to and quality of learning support services/tutoring • Improving support for quality teaching through focused professional development • Assessing/improving success rates in developmental courses • Assessing/improving advising • Developing a meaningful process for assessing student-learning outcomes. • Review program outcomes against skills required in various career fields. • Transitions course progression and pathways. • Added full-time English Faculty to staff a Writing Center to improve successful transitions to college-level English.
<p>Recommendation 2</p>		
<p>The evaluation committee recommends that GHC adopt and publish a policy regarding the safe use, storage, and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials (Standard 2.G.2).</p>	<p>Operational Policy 525 “Management and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes” was adopted by the Grays Harbor College Board of Trustees on 9/16/14 and is posted on the college’s website.</p> <p>In addition to the Operational Policy, the College has adopted and posted Administrative Procedures 525.01 “Hazardous Waste Materials Information and Training”, 525.02 “Spill Response”, and 525.03 “Hazardous Waste Disposal”. Operational Policies and Administrative Procedures can be found on the Grays Harbor College Operational Policies and Administrative Procedures web page.</p>	<p>In a letter dated February 4, 2015, The Commission accepted The College’s report addressing this recommendation. They indicated that: “expectations have been met and the College is now substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation.”</p>

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that Grays Harbor College develop a robust system for the collection and analysis of appropriately defined data to fully inform the planning and evaluation process for the institution, its programs and services, as well as core theme objectives and mission fulfillment and that it develop feedback mechanisms that more systematically use assessment data to improve practices and make changes to programs and services in support of mission fulfillment (Standard 3.A.3, 4.B.1).

Grays Harbor College has put into place a number of processes and tools that help to systematize and encourage the use of data in decision-making across the college and in connection with Core Theme Achievement/Mission Fulfillment.

Assessment/Improvement Processes Include:

- Core Theme/Strategic Action Plans
- Instructional Program Review (Instructional Program Review
- Student-Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Non-Academic Program Review

Data/Assessment Tools Include:

- Newly revised College Scorecard with multiple indices, looking at student success and student achievement data both locally and in comparison with state norms.
- Web-based Data Reporting Site that can be accessed by college employees, which includes both dashboards and spreadsheet style reports.
- Annual program of Institutional Research including the collection and dissemination of qualitative and quantitative research such as student and graduate survey reports, reports on student access and student success disaggregated by demographic and other sub-populations populations.
- Ad-hoc research request process that allows faculty, staff and administrators to design and obtain information around the quality of student learning, student

Revisions to the College Scorecard and a review of the data this fall have yielded some new areas of focus for the Core Themes. As discussed above in Recommendation 1, there are a number of projects being implemented in the context of the Core Themes this year that will address student learning and student success in Academic Transfer, Workforce Preparation, and Transitions. Additionally, in Service to Community the need for additional data has been identified and a plan is being developed to collect the needed information.

Faculty are examining their course assignments this year with an emphasis on improving student-learning outcomes. Faculty came together this fall to share assignments and discuss best practices. Plans are in the works to bring faculty back together this winter and spring to continue sharing expertise and experience with one another.

This fall, the College's exempt team spent a day reviewing data and considering the implications and solutions available for three major issues currently affecting the college. Topics included Civility on Campus, The Diversity and Equity Gap, and Strategic Enrollment Management (Student Access and Success). Information that came out of this retreat was shared with the college committees/teams charged handling these areas.

	success, and other indicators that may be important to the program or area.	
Recommendation 4		
It is recommended 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 and Standard 2.F.7).	Grays Harbor College is working diligently to ensure that its fiscal audits are completed and considered in a timely manner. On November 6, 2017, the Washington State Auditors will begin both the FY 2016 and FY 2017 fiscal audits of the College. By April 2018, the college will be completely in line with the 9-month time period recently prescribed by the NWCCU at their January 2017 Meeting (updated Standard 2.F.7).	In a letter dated February 15, 2017, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities informed Grays Harbor College that they accepted the College's Fall 2016 Special Report Addressing Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report addressing the external financial audit. As a follow-up after this report, the College submitted its FY 2015 audit results to NWCCU in April 2017.

New Programs Approved 2016-2017:

- Approved Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Teacher Education (BAS-TE) – September 2016
- Approved Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Assistant – July 2017

Programs Discontinued 2016-2017:

- None

Substantive Changes 2016-2017:

- Approved Associate Degree Program in Music Direct Transfer Agreement/Major Related Program – April 2017
- Approved curricular revisions to Associate of Technology degree program in Diesel Technology – September 2017
- Approved Associate Degree Program in Nursing Direct Transfer Agreement/Major Related Program - October 2017