



Northwest Commission on College and University (NWCCU)
Annual Update for WSQA
Academic Year 2010-11
Due October 15, 2011

College Name: Cascadia Community College

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Accreditation recommendations to the College and year of recommendation	Actions taken by the college to address recommendations	Improvement results
<p>Cascadia submitted a Year One Self-Evaluation report, under the revised accreditation standards, on March 1, 2011.</p> <p>Commendation: Cascadia Community College is commended for improvement in collecting and making data more visible and available to the college community.</p> <p>Commendation: Cascadia Community College is commended for continued faculty development focused on student outcomes assessment.</p>		

<p>Recommendation: The Collaboration core theme does not clearly link to the mission statement, and additional essential elements of the mission statement are not identified as core themes. As a result, the two core themes, Learning-Centered Education and Collaboration, do not collectively encompass the mission statement. The Evaluation Panel recommends that a stronger alignment be made between the mission statement and core themes to fully encompass the mission statement (Standard 1.B.1).</p>	<p>1. The administrative team began discussions on May 25, 2011 regarding the core themes, the mission statement, and the alignment between them. While the work of the campus and the accreditation steering committee centered on making the core themes representative of the mission, further review and discussion based on the Year One Evaluation Report showed that the links were not as obvious to external community.</p> <p>Several meetings were held to discuss how to move forward with the recommendations of the Commission and incorporate them into the college's future.</p>	<p>1.A It was decided that since Cascadia has a full comprehensive review due in one year, the college would complete this accreditation cycle without making changes to the core themes or mission, but to instead move forward in a comprehensive and purposeful way with the knowledge gained from the Year One report and work with the campus and community to begin improvement.</p> <p>1.B A timeline was developed for using the recommendations from the Year One Report regarding the Core Themes to thoughtfully develop new ones that better reflect the mission for the upcoming accreditation cycle.</p> <p>1.C A timeline for revisiting the college's mission statement was also developed. It was recognized through the Year One report that the mission statement is process based even though Cascadia is an outcome based institution. In order to achieve the level of shared governance that the college believes in, the formal review of the mission statement will extend past the current timeline for the comprehensive accreditation visit. The full results of these decisions and the work that follows will be seen in the next Year One Report to the Commission.</p>
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<p>Recommendation: The Evaluation Panel recommends that the objective-outcome-indicator structure should be revisited to focus on institutional levels of achievement of the essential elements of the mission statement rather than supporting activities or processes. The Panel also recommends that objectives should be reworded to emphasize what is to be achieved rather than how it is achieved. The Panel further recommends that the indicators should address those revised objectives and they should have meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement (Standard 1.B.2).</p>	<p>The accreditation steering committee met to review the wording of the objectives, the outcomes, and the meaningfulness of the indicators. It was decided to complete the upcoming Comprehensive process with the current structure, but to refine it where possible and to move fully into the next accreditation cycle with the intention of fulfilling the complete spirit of the recommendation from the committee.</p>	<p>It was determined that a campus-wide inclusive shared process could not be under taken to restructure the objectives, outcomes, and indicators; however, the objectives were revisited by a steering committee and wording tweaked to be more outcomes based than process based, the outcomes and indicators were reviewed and the levels of achievement were more specifically directed at the success of the mission.</p>
<p>Re: Recommendation 1 from the Spring 2009 focused interim evaluation report: The Evaluation Panel recommends that Cascadia Community College demonstrate how planning and evaluation lead to institutional improvement and how assessment results lead to improvement in teaching and learning. This area was addressed under the old standards in an addendum to the Year One Report.</p> <p>In the spirit of transition, this recommendation cites appropriate new Standards 4.A.3, 4.A.6, and 4.B.2.</p>	<p>The response to this prior recommendation will continue to be addressed in the Comprehensive Report in March 2012 under the new Standards 4.A.3, 4.A.6, and 4.B.2.</p>	