

College Assessment Plan

The College Assessment Plan for NWACC 2016-2019 has been designed to determine how well we are meeting our goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan, Program/Classroom Assessment Plans and Co-Curricular Assessment Plans. Our assessment plan has been designed to meet the standards for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission on Higher Education. It is also in accord with the College's commitment to Outcomes based funding.

The Relation of Academic Assessment to Governance, Administration, Strategic Planning and Budgeting

The Roles of Administration, Governance, and Faculty

The President oversees all institutional assessments and ensures that appropriate processes are in place to set goals, assess outcomes, and make improvements on the basis of evidence in every division of the College.

The Vice President for Learning (CAO) and his/her designee(s) are responsible for ensuring the learning assessment processes are developed according to accreditation standards and good practice, implemented and provided with adequate resources for operation and will be the responsible spokesperson for assessment at NWACC. The CAO monitors assessment plans and annual assessment reports to ensure that assessments are taking place regularly and systematically and that the College, through its departments, interdisciplinary programs, and College-wide structures, is responding to the findings of its assessments. The CAO provides appropriate budget support for academic assessment efforts. The CAO may delegate specific responsibilities for various assessment activities to appropriate administrators.

Cabinet members is responsible for reporting the results of their units' assessments to the President and for providing appropriate resources for their implementation and effective use of their results.

Academic administrators (deans, chairs, coordinators, and directors) are responsible for leadership and support in implementing learning assessment processes and using the findings to improve the quality of their academic programs.

Faculty are responsible for identifying outcomes, designing measures, developing processes, helping administer measures, analyzing results, and making recommendations for improvements for student learning pertinent to their disciplines. Faculty and staff facilitating co-curricular programs are responsible for implementing co-curricular learning assessment.

The Assessment Committee is responsible for reviewing, revising, and approving the three-year Academic Assessment Plan for Northwest Arkansas Community College. The CAO has appointed the Assessment Committee to monitor academic assessment planning

at the College level and to make recommendations to the CAO regarding annual institutional and program-level assessment plans, processes, and reports. The AC also conveys assessment results to CAO bi-annually for consideration and follow-up.

The Faculty Assessment Coordinator serves as Chair of the AC and, working closely with the CAO, coordinates academic assessment activities across the college. The Coordinator of Accreditation sits on the Assessment Committee and serves as co-chair of the Quality Council. The Quality Council works closely with the college community to maintain accreditation standards and helps align our strategic planning processes. Department chairs and program directors have responsibility for guiding their academic programs' assessment planning, guiding the implementation of assessment activities, and, in their departments' annual assessment reports, reporting both results and how those results are being or will be used, as well as any follow-up on the effectiveness of changes made.

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving syllabi for new courses and new or substantially revised academic program plans to assure that student learning objectives are clearly specified in both syllabi and department- and program-level documents.

The Library, Information Commons, Writing Center, Tutoring Center are responsible for assessing the effectiveness of their efforts to support the student learning and development.

Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Construction and Operations, and Risk and Policy Analysis, are responsible for assessing the effectiveness of those aspects of their programs that support student learning and development. The units themselves are responsible for managing the college's resources, ensuring its sound financial condition, building and enhancing the physical infrastructure, creating conditions in which students and employees can do their best work, ensuring effective hiring and other employment practices, and supporting the college's technological infrastructure.

Student Services is responsible for the initial onboarding and acclimation of students to the rigors and expectations of the college community. Student Services frequently collaborates with faculty and the academic leadership and is responsible for assessing all activities within the division that support the academic mission of the college and personal and academic growth of its students.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting

Our strategic planning and budgeting processes use the results of our assessment activities to maintain, improve, and strengthen NWACC and its ability to educate our students. Planning and budgeting effectively requires the systematic gathering, analysis, and use of a variety of information about our efforts, all in support of our academic mission. Budgets provide appropriate resources for assessment activities.

The College's ongoing assessment plan that is used for to measure both annual goal setting and in-depth review is as follows:

1. Teaching and Learning

- Reports on Planning & Research website:
 - Data and Information (including enrollment, demographics, FTE, grades, and retention reports)
 - Fact Book - December
 - General Education Outcomes Report
 - Data due to IE in May of each year

2. Student Success/Satisfaction: (rotates annually among students enrolled in curriculum, basic skills, or non-credit classes)

- Academic Program Review (Yearly and ongoing)
- Graduate/Completer Survey - yearly
- Research based data on economic and employment trends
- The Student Opinion Survey (NCCE every other year) due in 2019
- Faculty evaluations - March

3. Meeting Stakeholder Needs:

- Advisory Committee meetings (annual)
- Employer Follow-up Survey (continuous)
- Planning at the annual Board Retreat - July
- Needs assessment surveys for new programs
- Program Review

4. Valuing Faculty and Staff:

- Comprehensive Faculty/Staff Survey
- Development Opportunities Participants and Surveys

5. KPI's and Outcomes Based Funding:

- Data from IPEDS
- State licensure boards
- State performance indicators
- Budget – April
- NCCBP surveys (mentioned above)
- Institutional Effectiveness Report: The annual Institutional Effectiveness Report is published each fall and compiles data from the above sources as well as reports of unit accomplishments and budget expenditures. The report is published at the beginning of fall semester. (Fall)
- Quality Assurance Document Review

