

**Accreditation Evaluation Committee Report
Yakima Valley Community College
Recommendations and Commendations**

**2001 Site Visit
by the
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee recommends that care be taken to assure systematic formal assessment of student learning outcomes which is used to improve programs (Standard 2.B.1 and Policy Statement 2.2)
2. The committee recommends the college adhere to the current policy on full and part time faculty evaluations and that the policy be applied consistently across all Divisions of the college.
3. The Committee recommends that care should be taken that all faculty, whether part-time or full-time, teaching transfer courses should hold an appropriate advanced degree (Standard 4.1)
4. The committee recommends the college design a plan to ensure health and safety standards in the residence hall and attached dining room, with special attention given to heating and air conditioning. First floor residence hall facilities should be ADA compliant. (Standard 3.D.13 & 3.D.14)

GENERAL COMMENDATIONS

1. The committee commends the high level of knowledge, sensitivity, and commitment on the part Yakima College employees. During a period of incredible change, involving significant decreases in budget and positions, the employee enthusiasm and concern for student success is clearly evident.
2. The committee commends the college for its attractive and well-maintained grounds and facilities in Yakima and Grandview. Student labs and facilities in science and technology are well appointed.
3. The committee commends all faculty for their commitment to a set of college-wide general abilities for students. It is clear that the faculty have engaged in a thoughtful

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discussion of what it means to be educated and have developed the general abilities list as a means of clarifying their expectations.

4. The committee commends the faculty for their ongoing commitment to innovative approaches to teaching, especially the use of linked courses, learning communities, distance learning, and interdisciplinary courses.
5. The committee commends the college for its implementation of high quality technological infrastructures and systems in its administrative and instructional areas. The efficient management of these systems by well-trained staff clearly promotes the philosophy and mission of the college.
6. The committee commends the efforts of the administration, faculty, and staff that led to the initial success and subsequent short-term growth of the Distance Learning Program.

COMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE STANDARDS

Standard Two:

Arts & Hum	<p>The well-planned collaborative learning experiences offered to students provide especially valuable learning experiences for those students.</p> <p>The extra effort and creativity of the faculty in making maximum use of limited fiscal resources is commendable.</p> <p>The service provided by the Writing Center is an important component of writing instruction.</p>
Sci & Math	<p>The biology faculty members are teaching in a dynamic, collaborative and creative manner. They should be commended.</p>
Basic Skills	<p>The Basic Skills/ESL Department is to be commended for their positive approach to solving the curriculum, teaching and assessment issues, which arise as a result of outside influences and federal funding regulations in addition to college wide requirements. Their attitude toward change represents the best in what a community college has to offer to students as well as to the community.</p>
Fam & Cons	<p>The Early Childhood Education Programs deserve credit and commendation for the proactive stance they have taken in identifying community needs and implementing activities to serve them. They have developed a hidden "gem" in their collaborative work with Central Washington State in creating the opportunity for students to achieve a four-year bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with</p>

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	<p>an ECE certificate without leaving the YVCC campus. As a result of this program, YVCC currently has a full time faculty member teaching in the program who was a graduate of this collaboration</p>
Allied Health	<p>The Allied Health programs of WED are leaders in the assessment of program outcomes and in measuring student achievement.</p> <p>The syllabi and learning activities within the Allied Health educational programs are well written, contain measurable objectives and the 8 abilities identified by the college</p> <p>National certification and accreditation standards are met in all programs.</p> <p>Faculty is energetic and innovative.</p> <p>The organizational structure of the division lends support to the educational programs.</p> <p>The learning laboratories are impressive, and reflect the employment areas.</p> <p>All programs have active advisory committees.</p>
Ag/Auto/ Engr/Vet	<p>An outstanding faculty, who are student-centered, committed to excellence, and who are enthusiastic in mutual support for one another. (Standard 4.A.1)</p> <p>A willingness to develop and maintain relationships with area businesses and industry through their advisory committee structure and other initiatives. (Standard 1.B.3)</p> <p>An institution-wide approach to the development of innovative, high quality programs and services to meet the employment demands of local employers and the needs of students. (Standard 1.B.3)</p>
Bus/Acct/BOOC IT/MedAsst	<p>Full-time faculty carry full workloads and are to be commended on the positive manner in which they work with their students. Faculty advises students in their program areas. There seem to be no specifics as to the limit of advisees a faculty member is required to advise; therefore the numbers widely vary.</p>
Cont Ed & Spec	<p>The college should be commended for the efforts of the administration, faculty and staff that led to the initial success and subsequent short-term growth of the Distance Learning Program.</p>

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Standard Three:

The employees in the Student Services Division should be commended for their high level of commitment to student centered learning and student success.

The college should be commended for the commitment it has made to Student Services facilities and programs. The new building will give students a “one stop shopping” approach to support services. (Standard 3.A)

The organizational structure, along with the efforts of academic faculty and Student Services employees, encourages a cooperative working relationship between academics and student services. Students are the beneficiaries of this cooperative effort. (Standard 3.B)

The Student Government Association actively solicits student participation, supports student activities, and advocates for equipment and resources designed to support students. (Standard 3.D.16)

Standard Four:

The committee commends all faculty for their commitment to a set of college-wide general abilities for students. It is clear that the faculty have engaged in a thoughtful discussion of what it means to be educated and have developed the general abilities list as a means of clarifying their expectations.

The committee commends the faculty for their ongoing commitment to innovative approaches to teaching, especially the use of linked courses, learning communities, distance learning, and interdisciplinary courses

We commend the college for its implementation of high quality technological infrastructures and systems in its administrative and instructional areas. The efficient management of these systems by well-trained staff clearly promotes the philosophy and mission of the college

Standard Five:

Technical Services has done a remarkable job with the installation and management of the computer infrastructure.

We commend the active role librarians have in the instructional program.

The Library has taken every available opportunity to increase access to electronic information.

Standard Nine:

The college is to be commended on the thoughtful approaches to ensure institutional integrity.