Overview of Accreditation

What does NCA stand for?
NCA stands for North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This is one of the six regional associations of schools and colleges in the United States. It was founded in 1895.

What does HLC stands for?
HLC stands for the Higher Learning Commission. This is one of the two commissions in the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools which accredits degree-granting organizations of higher education. For more information regarding NCA/HLC visit their website: http://www.ncahlc.org/

What does PEAQ stand for?
PEAQ stands for Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality. This is one of the two programs provided by HLC for colleges to maintain accreditation status. The other program is the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP).

WCCCD is using the PEAQ program.

PEAQ employs a five-step comprehensive evaluation process to determine continued accreditation status.

What is the Self-Study Process?
Colleges conduct a self-study in order to receive continued accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The self-study process is a formal, comprehensive, institution-wide process of self-examination in preparation for a scheduled comprehensive evaluation.

The institution engages in a self-study process for approximately two years and prepares a self-study report of its findings in accordance with Commission expectations.

What are the Goals for the Self-Study?
Confirm that the organization’s practices and actions are consistent with its mission statement and strategic direction.

Provide proof of evidence of the organization’s strengths, areas for improvement, and plans for improvement.

Develop a strong sense of community through communication, collaboration, and connectedness between and among all the organization’s constituencies.

Position the organization’s future as a leading academic institution in the community and the State.

Achieve re-accreditation with the NCA.

What is the Self-Study Process?

As part of the continuous quality improvement initiatives, the District regularly collects data from various stakeholders about programs and services. This data is then tabulated and analyzed and these results feed into the strategic planning and decision making process for the future, both short and long term. This critical in helping us better understand the needs and demands of the people we serve. These efforts are all managed by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. Please click on the links below to view the results of some of the recent surveys conducted.

• Faculty Needs Survey Spring 2008
  The Faculty Needs Survey is conducted during Faculty Organization Day to better understand how the District can help provide workshops, activities, and resources that can help instructional delivery and faculty enrichment.

• Instruction Survey 2007
  The Student Survey of Instruction (SSOI) is a course evaluation instrument implemented by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness three weeks before the end of classes.

• Mission Survey 2007
  The WCCCD Mission Survey was implemented during the District-Wide Conference Day 2007 to evaluate faculty, professional staff, community partners, guests, and board of trustees on their thoughts and understanding of the District mission statement.

• District-Wide Conference Day Survey 2007
  Each year, for one-day, the entire WCCCD staff and faculty attend an off-site conference to come together and learn about recent accomplishments, understand long-term goals and the impact on the students and communities served.

• New Graduate Exit Survey 2006-2007
  The New Graduate Exit Survey is designed to capture new graduates’ immediate perceptions of their overall academic and student life experiences upon degree completion from the District.

• Alumni Survey 2007
  The Alumni Survey is conducted every other year to receive feedback from our students and how they are doing in the community. It allows WCCCD to receive students’ perspective on college services to make improvements based on overall satisfaction after graduation.

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8 Must-have Gadgets for Your Business Trip

Here are some of the best tech to set up a seamless mobile office and enjoy the comforts of home while on the road.

Asus Eee PC T91
It’s a netbook! It’s a tablet! It’s a touch-screen! Asus’ Eee PC T91 is both versatile and – at just over 2 pounds and less than an inch thick – mobile.

NeatReceipts Mobile Scanner
Stave off entropy – and hold tight to important info – with the NeatReceipts mobile scanner.

Verizon MiFi2200 Intelligent Mobile Hotspot
In a perfect world, we’d have Wi-Fi everywhere; until then, Verizon’s MiFi2200 will do.

Vue Personal Video Network
Pack some peace of mind – by leaving this camera system at home. Stick up to 50 magnetic mounts anywhere within 300 feet of the base; position the tiny wireless cameras; then log on to view your live streams from around the world.

Zero Halliburton 21" Carbon Fiber Carry-On Case
The brawny carbon-fiber weave on this crush-proof travel case is made from the same material in a Boeing 777’s wings. It’s lighter than common aluminum cases and small enough to be carried aboard.

Garmin Forerunner 405CX
Don’t let an unknown neighborhood keep you tethered to the hotel treadmill. Garmin’s Forerunner GPS sport watch will tell you exactly how far you’ve run – along with your heart rate, pace, and calories burned. Sync your data wirelessly and Training Center software will analyze them to your (healthy) heart’s content.

Canon Pixma iP100
Roughly the size of a piece of paper itself, Canon’s 4.4-pound mobile printer fits in your travel bag and is faster than most desktop printers (black-and-white clocks in at three seconds per page).

Slingbox Pro-HD
It’s simple: Hook the Slingbox to your television at home, then use your laptop and a broadband connection to watch what’s on your TV from anywhere in the world.

Banner 8 Implementation Update

In our previous two issues, we highlighted some of the new features and functionalities of Banner 8. Currently, WCCCD’s Information Technology team is diligently working to launch Banner 8 upgrade over the holiday break. The team, along with various functional end user’s, has been involved in a rigorous test plan that involved testing the various modules and their functionalities.

The Banner 8 test plan was conducted in different phases. All phases included a thorough testing of all the forms, processes and integrated banner modules. Because Banner 8 has very little to no interface changes, there is no need to re-train the end users. However, if you feel that you still need to be trained or need to learn more about Banner 8, please complete the Banner Training Request form online at http://www.wcccd.edu/dept/IE_form.htm

Transport Layer Security

Everyday millions of people order items over the internet. Ever wonder what keeps your information or credit card secure? There are many forms of internet protection but the most common is TLS or Transport Layer Security. TLS use to be known as SSL which stands for Secure Socket Layers. TLS is a cryptographic protocol that provides security for communications over networks, which is widely used on the actual internet. TLS and SSL protocols can be found on very popular network communication applications such as web browsing, instant messaging, email, and voice over IP. TLS and SSL are effective because it encrypts the segment on both ends of the Transport Layer.