



**Northwest Commission on College and University (NWCCU)  
Annual Update for WSQA  
Academic Year 2013-2014  
Due October 30, 2014**

College Name: Edmonds Community College

Contact Person: James Mulik

Contact Phone: 425-640-1610

Contact email: james.mulik@edcc.edu

Accreditation recommendations to the College and year of recommendation	Actions taken by the college to address recommendations	Improvement results
<p>The College submitted its Year Three report on January 27, 2014. After submission of the Year Three report, the College hosted a four-person evaluation team March 3-5, 2014. On June 10, 2014 the College’s President and the College’s Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) met via phone with two Commissioners and the evaluation team chair to respond to questions and to provide clarifying remarks about the visit and the evaluation team’s report. As a result of the March evaluation team visit and the June conference call, the college received an Action Letter from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) dated July 30, 2014. That letter indicated that, “the Board of Commissioners accepted the College’s Spring 2014 Year Three <i>Resources and Capacity</i> Report which was</p>	<p>Since submission of the January 2014 Year Three Report and receipt of the July 30, 2014 Action Letter, Edmonds Community College has continued to work on improving its financial reporting; improving communication with faculty members; and improving alignment among student learning outcomes.</p> <p>Specifically, the College has undertaken and/or continues to work on the following actions:</p> <p>For Recommendation #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working closely with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the College has participated in training on the preparation of GASB-compliant financial statements using data from our legacy systems.</li> </ul>	<p>The July 30, 2014 Action Letter indicated that Recommendations 2 and 3, “are areas where Edmonds Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.” However Recommendation 1, “does not meet the Commission’s criteria for accreditation.”</p> <p>The July 30, 2014 Action Letter from the NWCCU also indicated that the College</p>

<p>expanded to address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One <i>Mission and Core Themes</i> Peer-Evaluation Report. In regard to Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One <i>Mission and Core Themes</i> Peer-Evaluation Report, the Commission determined that its expectations have been met.”</p> <p>The College received four commendations as a result of the Spring 2014 evaluation visit:</p> <p>Commendation 1: “The evaluators commend the institution’s faculty, staff and administration for your passionate belief in and support of students. Whether you are believing in a student’s good idea, such as the START program, or supporting special services through a new Veteran’s Center, or providing customized tutoring and support to meet the needs of your diverse student body, your commitment to the students of Edmonds Community College is evident in everything you do.”</p> <p>Commendation 2: “The evaluators commend the library faculty and staff for their creativity and dedication that support student success and for their use of assessment data to improve services for students and faculty.”</p> <p>Commendation 3: “The evaluators commend the faculty for their focus on high impact pedagogy and practices such as service learning and undergraduate research and for their dedication to student success.”</p> <p>Commendation 4: “The evaluators commend the institution for the implementation of innovative workforce, international and continuing education programs that effectively serve business, industry and the college’s diverse community. These entrepreneurial programs help to diversify and stabilize the college’s funding sources.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The College has now completed all steps on a checklist of required data adjustments in preparation for our first financial statement in the new format.</li> <li>• Working with the State Board, the College has developed a timeline for the completion of a formally audited financial statement by early Spring 2015 and has started work on the financial statement itself.</li> </ul> <p>For Recommendation #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started a more extensive orientation for new part-time faculty.</li> <li>• Created a new Associate Dean for Instruction position that will work with part-time faculty in support of classroom strategies and college outcomes.</li> <li>• Invitations and compensation to participate in training for use of Dependable Strengths in the classroom have been extended to part-time faculty members.</li> <li>• Outreach to part-time faculty members has been made to broaden participation on college committees.</li> </ul> <p>For Recommendation #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Learning Outcomes at the program level (which include general education and distribution outcomes) have been more prominently displayed in programs of study in the College’s catalog.</li> <li>• Faculty members have established rubrics and working groups to assess each program-level student learning outcome (which are known as Program-Level Learning Outcomes, or PLOs, at Edmonds).</li> <li>• Faculty have established a two year timeframe for assessment each of the general education and distribution requirement outcomes in</li> </ul>	<p>address Recommendation 1 in a Spring 2015 Ad Hoc Report without a visit and address Recommendations 2 and 3 in its Spring 2017 Year Seven <i>Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability</i> Self-Evaluation Report.</p>
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<p>In addition to the four commendations, three new recommendations were made based upon the Spring 2014, Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. These three, new recommendations are:</p> <p>Recommendation 1: “The evaluation committee recommends 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; Standard 2.F.7).”</p> <p>Recommendation 2: “The College has acknowledged that the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty has shifted toward more part-time faculty over the last seven years and the College is planning to add new tenure-track faculty positions each year. However, it will take several years to significantly impact this ratio, and the talents and expertise of part-time faculty will remain essential to provide quality academic programs. Therefore, the evaluation committee recommends that the College improve its systems to consistently inform part-time faculty about College processes and policies, and consistently integrate part-time faculty into academic processes, including the teaching and assessment of student learning outcomes (Standard 2.A.12; 2.A.15; 2.B.4; 2.C.5).”</p> <p>Recommendation 3: “The committee recommends that the College clarify the relationship between the College-Wide Abilities (CWAs), the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and the general education/distribution outcomes to increase the coherency of program design and course sequencing leading to synthesis of learning, and provide</p>	<p>programs of study offered by the college.</p>	
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alignment that is clear to faculty and students (Standard 2.C.4, 2.C.10, 2.C.11).”		
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