



July 22, 2020

President Jane A. Karas
Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Dr. Karas:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 24-26, 2020, concerning the Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Flathead Valley Community College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Commendations

The Commission commends Flathead Valley Community College for:

1. The outstanding level of preparation that went into the Mission Fulfillment & Sustainability Report as well as engagement in site visit activities, having moved all events to virtual space on short notice given widespread national health concerns related to COVID-19; all while maintaining services and instruction to students in a virtual environment.
2. Its high quality student support through key transitions such as high school to college, developmental education to college-level courses, as well as improving time to degree and transfer to four-year institutions.
3. The Library staff's exemplary focus on student success through campus outreach; service to students, faculty, and community members; and recent contributions to effective student-centered design of the new library.
4. Student leaders, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees' unwavering commitment to the mission of the college. It was clear this commitment serves as the cornerstone of a college community where students thrive.
5. Establishing itself as a deeply valued member of the community where civic engagement, goodwill, service, and learning at all levels are on clear display. Through an array of programs and services, the college's commitment to lifelong learning has made it an indispensable part of a vibrant and engaged community.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Flathead Valley Community College:

1. Ensure core theme planning, inclusive of outcomes, indicators, and targets, guides the selection, implementation, alignment, correlation, and integration of programs and services at all levels (2020 Standard 1.B.2, 1.B.4).

2. Fully implement the use and analysis of meaningful, assessable, verifiable data to evaluate core theme objectives in Developmental Education, Community Education, and Workforce Preparation (2020 Standard 1.B.1).
3. Track program, service, and core theme outcomes and compare that data to meaningful targets with a purpose of authentic achievements and results that lead to improvement (2020 Standard 1.C.7, 1.B.4).
4. Document how core theme indicators and the assessment process drive planning and resource allocation (2020 Standard 1.B.3).
5. Use the results of evidence-based assessment to make data-driven decisions around quality and effectiveness of college efforts leading to mission fulfillment (2020 Standard 1.C.7, 1.D.2).

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2023
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Year 6 - Standard 2 – Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2027

For institutions evaluated in Spring 2020, recommendations under the 2010 Standards to be addressed in future evaluations have been translated into NWCCU 2020 Standards.

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Chris Clouse, Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs
Dr. Ruby Hayden, Vice President of Student Services, Lake Washington Institute of Technology