

STANDARD I:



Mission, Academic Quality
and Institutional
Effectiveness, and Integrity

I.A. MISSION

Standard I.A.1

The mission describes the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, the types of degrees and other credentials it offers, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement. (ER 6)

Evidence of Meeting the Standard:

The College mission statement focuses West's attention on its primary purposes, and orients the College so that all members of the campus community are working toward the same goals. The mission statement, supported by College vision and values, reflects West's commitment to its students and their success:

West Los Angeles College provides a transformative educational experience.

West fosters a diverse learning community dedicated to student success.

Through quality instruction and supportive services, the College develops leaders who encourage excellence in others.

A West education enriches students with the knowledge and skills needed to earn certificates and degrees, to transfer, to build careers, and to pursue life-long learning.¹ (ER 6; ACCJC Statement on Diversity)²

Broad Educational Purpose

This mission statement captures the broad educational purposes of the College, to help students “earn certificates and degrees, to transfer, to build careers and to pursue life-long learning.” These goals in themselves define the intended students as anyone who seeks such advancement. The College mission aligns with the missions of the Los Angeles Community College District³ and the California Community Colleges.⁴

For the faculty and staff of West Los Angeles College, the mission to provide “a transformative educational experience” articulates the bedrock aspiration of the College: to transform lives through true student learning, documented in student achievement.

Intended Student Populations

As an open access, public post-secondary institution, WLAC’s intended population includes:

- high school graduates seeking pre-collegiate or general education curriculum for degree completion or transfer to four-year institutions,
- students returning to school after raising families or long absences,
- individuals entering or re-entering the workforce pursuing certificates or job skills to prepare for the new economy,
- second language learners seeking functional and academic English skills, and
- life-long learners expanding their personal learning boundaries.

The mission statement also encompasses students enrolled in distance education courses. Approximately twenty-five percent of WLAC's enrollment is in online and hybrid courses. Providing students with access to college courses in a variety of instructional modes of delivery supports the College's vision, “a gateway to success for every student.” West encourages leadership development for online students as it does for all students. Participation in West's Associated Students Organization (ASO) is encouraged for both on-campus and online students. Online students can vote online in ASO elections.

¹ [*Mission Statement*](#)

² [*ACCJC Statement on Diversity Compliant*](#)

³ [*LACCD Mission Statement, page 5*](#)

⁴ [*California Community College Mission*](#)

Commitment to Student Learning and Achievement (ER 6)⁵

As an institution dedicated to enriching the knowledge and skills of students, as expressed in the mission statement, the College is focused on student achievement and student learning.

Analysis and Evaluation:

The College meets this Standard. The College mission defines WLAC’s broad educational purposes, the community it serves, the awards it offers, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement.

In fall 2016, the College plans to welcome its first cohort of students to a bachelor’s degree program in Dental Hygiene. In preparation for this, the Accreditation Steering Committee has initiated a review of the mission statement, which will specify the availability of both associate and bachelor’s degrees. The review will consider the entire mission statement and will involve all College constituencies. Δ

Standard I.A.2

The institution uses data to determine how effectively it is accomplishing its mission, and whether the mission directs institutional priorities in meeting the educational needs of students.

Evidence of Meeting the Standard:

West Los Angeles College uses quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate how successfully it is accomplishing its mission. The 2014-2020 Educational Master Plan (EMP) states:

The WLAC Mission is the foundation for the EMP, and the EMP in turn, serving as the College’s strategic plan, is intended to drive the other major College-wide plans, and to inform significant institutional decisions and initiatives.⁶

Use of Data and Meeting the Mission

In other words, the EMP guides the College in achieving its mission by identifying strategic directions, goals, and objectives for the coming year. By identifying direct goal measures and measures of progress on objectives, the EMP specifies quantitative and qualitative

⁵ See ACCJC Glossary, Definition of Student Learning and Achievement

⁶ Educational Master Plan, Major Planning Assumptions and Constraints, page 12