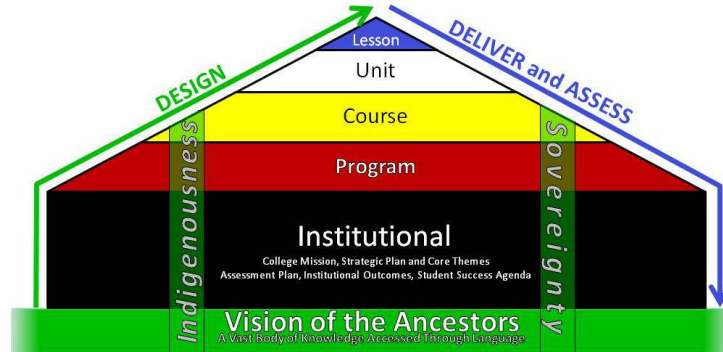


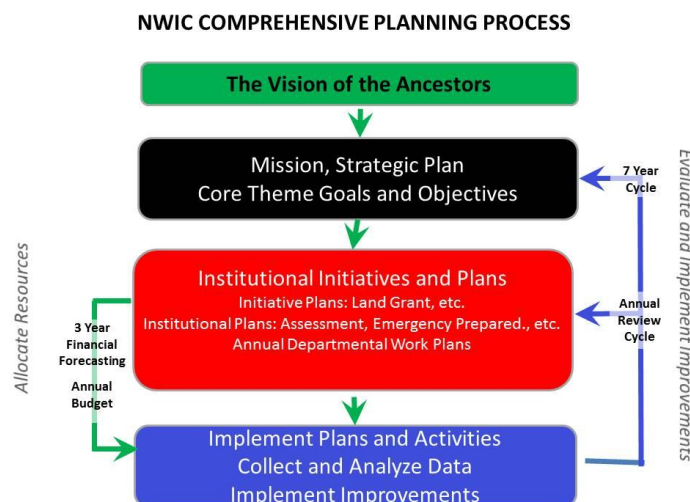
Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Process – Standard 3.A.

Accreditation standard 3 addresses planning at NWIC and standard 3.A. specifically addresses the College's comprehensive plan and planning process. The comprehensive plan is a tool that the College uses for planning the development and implementation of all aspects of the college. The comprehensive plan is used to address the constant change and evolution of the college using the process of continuous improvement. Northwest Indian College's mission guides its comprehensive planning process and, for the current accreditation cycle (2010-2017), the College's strategic plan serves as its comprehensive plan.

A description of the college's comprehensive planning process stems from the way NWIC uses the cycle of continuous improvement in addressing student learning and academic programming. The following diagram was developed in an effort to illustrate the inter-relationships between academic programming and student learning, the cycle of continuous improvement, and the College's foundation in Indigenous knowledge. The diagram, often called the "Longhouse Diagram," uses the outline of a traditional Coast Salish longhouse to show how design and development arise from the Indigenous foundation held within the Vision of the Ancestors and communicated through the vast body of knowledge in Native language. The college's mission statement, strategic plan, core themes, and other institutional plans arise out of this foundation. Programs and the delivery of the individual components of those programs, including courses, units, and individual lessons, assignments, or activities, are designed, delivered and then assessed from this foundation. Finally, the assessment process influences continuous improvements at the institutional, program, and more detailed level as the cycle of design, delivery, and assessment is repeated.



The longhouse diagram has been extended to describe the comprehensive planning process at NWIC. While academic programming uses programs, courses, units, and lessons to deliver, implement, and assess content, NWIC uses various plans to implement the comprehensive planning process. The following comprehensive planning process diagram turns the longhouse diagram upside down in order to show the cycle of continuous improvement in developing, implementing, allocating resources, assessing plans, and making improvements on an annual and seven year cycle. The entire process is guided by the foundation of the College embodied in the Vision of the Ancestors and articulated in the strategic plan, core themes, goals, and objectives. These drive the identification, development, and assessment of institutional plans and initiatives, including but not limited to land grant, emergency preparedness, comprehensive student enrollment, teaching and learning, assessment of student learning, as well as annual departmental work plans.



The Text of Accreditation Standard 3 is Provided Here as a Reference

The institution engages in ongoing, participatory planning that provides direction for the institution and leads to the achievement of the intended outcomes of its programs and services, accomplishment of its core themes, and fulfillment of its mission. The resulting plans reflect the interdependent nature of the institution's operations, functions, and resources. The institution demonstrates that the plans are implemented and are evident in the relevant activities of its programs and services, the adequacy of its resource allocation, and the effective application of institutional capacity. In addition, the institution demonstrates that its planning and implementation processes are sufficiently flexible so that the institution is able to address unexpected circumstances that have the potential to impact the institution's ability to accomplish its core theme objectives and to fulfill its mission.

3.A – Institutional Planning

3.A.1 The institution engages in ongoing, purposeful, systematic, integrated, and comprehensive planning that leads to fulfillment of its mission. Its plans are implemented and made available to appropriate constituencies.

3.A.2 The institution's comprehensive planning process is broad-based and offers opportunities for input by appropriate constituencies.

3.A.3 The institution's comprehensive planning process is informed by the collection of appropriately defined data that are analyzed and used to evaluate fulfillment of its mission.

3.A.4 The institution's comprehensive plan articulates priorities and guides decisions on resource allocation and application of institutional capacity.

3.A.5 The institution's planning includes emergency preparedness and contingency planning for continuity and recovery of operations should catastrophic events significantly interrupt normal institutional operations.