



## NORTHERN New Mexico College / HLC ACCREDITATION NEWSLETTER



### Criterion 3 Mock Visit questions to practice for the Accreditation visit:

1. Do you know what NNMC's "Quality Initiative" was these past three years?

*HINT: It was also known as the SSI.*

2. What is your department's vision for the future? How does it relate to the College's vision?

*HINT: NNMC's Mission/Vision is on the website in the "About Northern" menu.*

3. How do co-curricular activities/programs contribute to the educational experience of students?

*HINT: See page 2*

**Are students provided with sufficient and relevant co-curricular experiences?**



# HLC CRITERION 3: TEACHING & LEARNING for STUDENT SUCCESS

## SUMMARY of NNMC Assurance Argument: CRITERION 3. TEACHING & LEARNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**N** NMC provides high-quality, mission-aligned teaching and learning through well-designed academic programs supported by qualified faculty and student services.

All programs are based on clear learning outcomes and follow appropriate levels of academic rigor for certificate, associate, and bachelor's degrees.

Program quality is ensured through a seven-year review cycle, external accreditation when applicable, and assessment of student learning outcomes. Faculty are credentialed, regularly evaluated, and supported through professional development in pedagogy and online instruction.

Courses, including online and dual credit, uphold consistent standards and are taught by qualified faculty. The General Education curriculum builds foundational skills in communication, critical thinking,

*Criterion 3 Summary continued next page*

### HLC Criterion 3. Teaching & Learning for Student Success

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness in fulfilling its mission.

**3A. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** The institution maintains learning goals and outcomes that reflect a level of rigor commensurate with college-level work, including by program level and the content of each of its educational programs.

**3B. EXERCISE OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY** The institution's educational programs engage students in collecting, analyzing and communicating information; in practicing modes of intellectual inquiry or creative work; and in developing skills adaptable to changing environments.

**3C. SUFFICIENCY OF FACULTY AND STAFF** The institution has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs and student services.

**3D. SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND RESOURCES FOR TEACHING** The institution provides student support services that address the needs of its student populations, as well as the teaching resources and infrastructure necessary for student success.

**3E. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING** The institution improves the quality of educational programs based on its assessment of student learning.

**3F. PROGRAM REVIEW** The institution improves its curriculum based on periodic program review.

**3G. STUDENT SUCCESS OUTCOMES** The institution's student success outcomes demonstrate continuous improvement, taking into account the student populations it serves and benchmarks that reference peer institution. ■

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**SEPT 8**  
OPEN UNTIL  
SEPT 17



**OCT 20**  
ASSURANCE ARGUMENT  
LOCK DATE



**NOV 5**  
CAMPUS  
CLEANUP



**NOV 17**  
SITE  
VISIT

## HLC'S STUDENT OPINION SURVEY WENT OUT SEPT 8!



# STUDENTS! WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Please share your experience at  
Northern New Mexico College  
in a 5-minute online survey.



**Higher Learning Commission  
Student Opinion Survey  
September 8-17, 2025**

### CRITERION 3. Summary continued

quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility, aligning with state-mandated skills and course numbering standards.

Academic and co-curricular learning are integrated through capstones, research, internships, and civic engagement, enriching student learning. Student support—advisement, tutoring, developmental coursework, and early alert systems—are accessible, regularly reviewed, and aim to promote equitable outcomes.

Student conduct and computing policies reinforce ethical behavior and integrity in the academic environment. Together, these practices uphold NNMC's commitment to ethical, responsible, and transparent institutional conduct. ■

## WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF CO-CURRICULAR?

**C**O-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES take place outside of a course's curriculum but are related to academics in some way.

Participation is voluntary and has no bearing on a student's GPA or accumulation of academic credits.

Co-curricular activities are activities related to student coursework. They are practice sessions that allow students to apply what they learn in class in real-world situations.

Although these activities are not graded, they enable students to take concepts from their textbooks and implement them in a practical way. This approach makes learning more meaningful and helps the lessons stay in students' memories.

**Co-curricular examples for a Science class:** If one is learning about biology, a co-curricular activity might involve joining a science club to engage in hands-on experiments or to prepare for the STEM Exploration Day or Research Symposium.

**Co-curricular examples for a Social Studies class:** Participating in student senate is considered a co-curricular activity because it allows students to gain firsthand experience in government and policy, applying what they have learned in class. ■

## DID YOU MISS SOME NEWSLETTERS? [Read them here:](#)



THE MASTER PLAN



CRITERION 1: MISSION



CRITERION 2: INTEGRITY