



WATC

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CHAPTER 8

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE



SELF-STUDY
2014



Chapter 8...

Federal Compliance

Assignment of Credits and Program Length


Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) uses semester hours to assign credits to its courses. One credit hour is equal to 15 hours of lecture, 30 hours of laboratory work, or 45 hours in a clinical setting. The college follows regulations from the Department of Education (DOE) on [guidelines for credit hours](#). The DOE requires institutions to reasonably approximate not less than: 1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class work by the student each week for 15 weeks to equal one semester hour of credit or 2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in statement (1) for other activities, such as laboratory work, internships, or clinicals, which lead to the awarding of credit hours. WATC is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to offer associate of applied science (AAS) degrees, technical certificates, and certificates of completion. The college follows the [guidelines set by KBOR](#) on the length of these programs. The AAS degree must be at least 60 credit hours, technical certificates range in length from 16 to 59 credit hours, and certificates of completion are fewer than 16 credit hours.


The college's Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program is accredited by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and offers an AAS and two technical certificates. The FAA provides oversight and guidance on the length of the AMT program and credit requirements, as well as the content and contact hour requirements for every course offered. The AMT program is longer than other AAS or technical certificate programs offered at WATC. The AMT AAS degree is 135 credit hours in length and each technical certificate program is 70 credit hours, each having [special permission from KBOR](#) on program length.


Tuition


[Tuition](#) differs for each department or program based on varying costs of laboratory equipment, materials, and other instructional technologies. In some programs, higher tuition is necessary to create and maintain laboratory environments that replicate the workplace. Student fees are charged per credit hour and are the same for all departments; however, laboratory fees, online fees, student supplies, uniforms, tools, testing fees, and any other costs are passed along to students and vary by program.


Tuition per credit hour is consistent for all general education courses. Tuition for Kansas nonresidents and out-of-state students is an additional 20 percent above the in-state tuition rate, and tuition for international students is an additional 30 percent


 [HLC Credit Hour Worksheets](#)


 [Sample Syllabus - Distance Education - 1 Credit Hour](#)


 [Sample Syllabus - Distance Education - 2 Credit Hours](#)

 [Sample Syllabus - Distance Education - 3 Credit Hours](#)

 [Sample Syllabus - Distance Education - 4 Credit Hours](#)

 [Sample Syllabus - Distance Education - 5 Credit Hours](#)

 [KBOR Approval of AMT Program](#)

 [Tuition Cost by Credit Hour - 2013-2014](#)



above the in-state tuition rate. WATC sets tuition rates annually and may choose to increase or decrease tuition by program. The WATC Board has final approval on tuition costs. Program tuition costs are available on the WATC Web site.

Institutional Records of Student Complaints


The college relies on a decentralized procedure that begins informally and escalates to a formal documented process if the complaint or appeal is still unresolved. Every attempt is made to resolve student appeals and complaints at the lowest administrative level. In most cases, complaints can be resolved in an informal manner by the individuals working closest to the situation. If the complaint is unable to be resolved informally, students can choose to formally submit their complaint or appeal to the appropriate director, dean, or vice president.

The dean of students is available if necessary to provide guidance to students in navigating the specific [complaint or grievance process](#) that applies to the situation. The college provides a feedback form on the myWATC portal for students to leave feedback and a WATC phone number where students can leave messages. The dean of students monitors the submissions and contacts students to provide assistance. Complaints received by the dean of students are referred to the appropriate contact.

 [Feedback Form - myWATC](#)

Academic Code of Conduct

The [Academic Code of Conduct](#) outlines procedures for students who wish to dispute a grade. Students who are dissatisfied with a course grade are directed to first confer with the instructor who issued the grade. If students' dissatisfaction persists, they may [formally appeal the grade](#) in writing to the appropriate academic dean. Finally, students may contest the dean's decision by appealing in writing to the vice president, Academic Affairs. The registrar's office compiles this information in students' electronic records.

 [Grade Appeal Form - Hardcopy](#)

A similar process is used to address [student instructional concerns](#). Examples of instructional or course concerns are instructor behavior, course policies, and unfair expectations or demands. Students are first directed to meet with the instructor and attempt to resolve the problem informally. If there is no resolution, students must submit a formal written appeal to the appropriate academic dean. A final appeal may be made to the vice president, Academic Affairs, if the student is not satisfied with the dean's action and/or decision.

Tuition Refund Appeals

One of the most frequent areas of student complaints is in tuition refunds or reversal of tuition charges. Students who wish to appeal their charges must file a tuition appeal form. No tuition refunds or adjustments are made after the refund period outlined in the [Drop-Withdrawal-Refund policy](#), except in rare cases. Examples of rare cases may include death of an immediate family member, the student's own serious injury or



illness, serious injury or illness of someone who was dependent upon the student for support and care, and military deployment. Supporting documentation from a healthcare provider, funeral home, military supervisor, or another authoritative source is required for the committee to review the appeal. A committee reviews students' appeals and provides a recommendation to the dean of students who approves or rejects the committee's recommendation. The committee is comprised of the director, Academic Coaching and Enrollment; assistant director, Financial Aid; director, Business Office; Office of the Registrar; and a current WATC student. Appeals and responses are scanned into students' [electronic records](#). The committee also maintains a log to track the appeals and identify trends that need to be addressed.

 [Tuition Refund Appeal - Hardcopy](#)

Student Code of Conduct

The dean of students investigates all complaints of alleged student misconduct through the Student Code of Conduct. The procedures to be followed are clearly stated and available for students on the college's Web site. Students may contact the dean of students to report allegations of misconduct against another student. The dean of students may decide that the charges can be disposed of administratively with the mutual consent of the parties involved on a basis acceptable to the parties. If an administrative resolution is not achieved, and if the dean of students recommends expulsion, the matter is reviewed by the vice president, Marketing and Student Services and by the president before a decision to expel for disciplinary reasons is reached. For disciplinary actions other than expulsion, the dean of students issues a decision that determines whether the alleged conduct occurred; whether the conduct violated the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or college policies or procedures; and the dean of students initiates a sanction or sanctions, as warranted by the circumstances. Students have the right to appeal to the vice president, Student Services within seven days of the decision. All discipline sanctions imposed are recorded and stored by the dean of students.

Sexual Harassment

The dean of students investigates complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment and retaliation under the Sexual [Harassment of Student to Student policy](#); the executive director, Human Resources, addresses sexual harassment and retaliation under the [Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment policy](#).


Publication of Transfer Policies

WATC is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) and the Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO). The college policy for [transfer credit](#) is aligned closely with AACRAO's best practices. Staff members in the registrar's office attend the KACRAO conference annually to remain current with the best practices of surrounding institutions. The college requires official transcripts before credit is reviewed for



transfer. Coursework from a regionally accredited institution with a grade of C or higher may be evaluated for transfer credit. These credits are applied to an AAS degree or technical certificate program and are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Approved transfer credits are not included in students' WATC career GPAs, but the credit hours are applied to the program award requirements. The registrar and/or appropriate dean review and evaluate transfer-of-credit requests and inform students in writing as to the acceptability of the coursework. WATC has articulation agreements with other institutions of higher learning. The articulation information for each of these is presented to students on WATC's Web site. The agreements allow students to transfer credits earned at the college to four-year colleges or universities to apply to a bachelor's degree. WATC accepts credit from the four-year colleges or universities for courses outlined in the articulation agreements. In addition to articulation agreements, KBOR has established system-wide transfer of select general education courses across all KBOR institutions. Currently, 32 courses have been identified within the KBOR system, and WATC offers 23 of these courses. For these courses to qualify for system-wide transfer, each institution must use the outcomes developed in the [KBOR Core Outcomes Project](#) for each course.

Students may apply for [credit for prior learning](#). Awarding credit for prior learning is a process of evaluating and assessing students' learning that is gained outside a traditional academic environment. A maximum of 15 credit hours may be earned through credit by exam, military credit, standardized tests, and prior learning assessment. Prior learning credit does not count toward the residence requirement for degrees. Credit for prior learning may be achieved through military credit, credit by exam, or portfolio assessment. Portfolio assessment includes learning achieved on-the-job or through corporate or industry training, professional training programs, workshops or conferences, independent studies, civic activities, volunteer service, or open-source courseware. A portfolio fee of \$75 is assessed before evaluation. The assessment is conducted by a WATC faculty member who has expertise in the subject area. The portfolio consists of a narrative that illustrates knowledge in the subject area and supporting documentation, such as certifications and licenses.

 [Request for Prior Learning Form](#)

Practices for Verification of Student Identity

WATC currently offers distance courses, which are defined as courses that are offered completely online or courses that are offered partially online and partially in face-to-face classrooms. WATC does not offer correspondence courses.

The practice followed by the college to verify identity of students enrolled in distance courses is to issue [usernames and passwords](#) to access academic content, including assessments, through ANGEL, the college's learning management system.



Some distance courses at WATC require students to take [proctored assessments](#). Students may travel to one of the college's testing centers at the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) or at the Southside Center (Southside). Students not in WATC's geographical area may arrange to have a test proctored at an approved testing center near their location. Regardless of testing location, students are required to show [photo identification](#) to take the assessment.

Students enrolled in online courses are [not charged](#) for proctored assessments at WATC's testing centers, but students taking a proctored assessment at an approved testing center at another geographical location may incur fees charged by that organization. Students are made aware of this potential charge on the [enrollment agreement form](#) that they receive at the time of enrollment.

Title IV Program Responsibilities

General Program Responsibilities

In June 2012, WATC participated in a DOE Program Review when three DOE representatives came for a site visit. In September 2012, WATC received its [Program Review Report](#), which noted 16 findings that involved several departments. WATC had 60 days to respond to the findings with corrective actions. [Within the response](#), WATC identified areas of weakness and submitted the required corrective action plan. In addition to the corrective actions, WATC has also made a conscious effort to improve policies and procedures.

 [Program Review Report](#)

The Program Review Report most directly impacted the Financial Aid department. The most significant finding dealt with the cost of attendance for less-than-full-time students. According to Section 471 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, for the purpose of calculating Title IV assistance, the term "cost of attendance" refers to students carrying the same academic workload as determined by the institution. WATC's Financial Aid department was calculating the cost of attendance for everyone as a full-time student, and not adjusting according to the student's actual enrollment status. This created more eligibility for a federal student loan for this population. DOE required WATC to revise the cost of attendance components to include part-time academic status and to make adjustments to awards and cost of attendance accordingly. WATC reviewed approximately 2,900 student files due to this direct finding and also updated policies and procedures to ensure compliance. The DOE has not yet determined the financial impact to the college. See Table 8.1, WATC Findings of Department of Education's Program Review Report.



Table 8.1

WATC Findings of Department of Education's Program Review Report		
Finding Description	Responsible Party	Action
Incorrect Calculation of Cost of Attendance	Financial Aid	WATC has successfully reviewed a total of 2,911 student records and adjusted the cost of attendance and awards to reflect part-time status.
Improper Origination of Direct Loans	Financial Aid	Students' grade levels will be monitored on a monthly basis to determine the progression to a higher grade level.
Financial Need Incorrect Failure to Coordinate Non-Title IV Resources for Packaging Title IV Funds	Financial Aid	WATC updated the procedure for packaging requirements to validate its corrective action to ensure its packaging methodology includes all required resources to accurately compute a student's Estimated Financial Assistance.
Exit Counseling Deficiencies	Financial Aid	WATC will receive monthly reports from the Information Technology department identifying students who are enrolled in fewer than six (6) credit hours but attended six (6) or more credit hours the prior semester.
Return of Title IV Funds Calculation Errors	Financial Aid	WATC updated the start and end dates for the student in question. WATC is contesting this determination because WATC takes attendance, which changes the method of calculation.
Verification Violation	Financial Aid	WATC may manually have internal audits for verification process to ensure compliance with federal regulations.
Cost of Attendance Not Documented	Financial Aid	WATC updated procedures to ensure the collection of information from third-party reliable sources to document cost of attendance components, as well as maintain all records.
Student Not Notified of Title IV Grant Repayment	Financial Aid	WATC updated procedures to ensure compliance with correspondence to students informing them of funds required to be returned by the college and the student's obligation to repay any overpayments.
Admission Policy Not Followed	Admissions	WATC updated the policy to ensure that students who are concurrent enrollees be required to submit official documentation certifying their high school or GED completion before they are fully accepted as a first-time freshman.
Student Credit Balance Deficiencies	Business Office	WATC created a policy that documents that no Title IV credit balances will be retained on behalf of students.
Failure to Meet Factors of Financial Responsibility-Escheatment of Credit Balance Checks	Accounts Payable	WATC finalized the review of all unclaimed checks and check returns to Title IV HEA funds. WATC has updated policies and procedures to ensure compliance.
Third-Party Servicer Not Reported on ECAR	Financial Aid	WATC updated, via electronic application, the college's ECAR to reflect third-party servicers.
Account Records Not Reconciled Timely	Business Office	WATC updated procedures to include monthly reconciliations of Pell grant, SEOG, and Direct Loan funds to include COD, G5, and Institutional Ledgers.
Drug Abuse Prevention Program Requirement Not Met-Part 86	Safety and Security	WATC has updated procedures to ensure training sessions for Sexual Harassment and Assault, as well as Drug and Alcohol Abuse. A semi-annual review of these programs is conducted in February and October.
Crime Awareness Requirement Not Met	Safety and Security	WATC is contesting the fact that it is out of compliance. Per further review, WATC is accurately reporting all federal requirements for official crime statistics and reflecting them on its Clery Reporting Statistics for the DOE.
Credit/Clock Hour Conversion Improper	Academic Affairs/ Financial Aid	WATC has successfully updated its ECAR to reflect the correct credit/clock hour conversion for three (3) vocational/non-degree programs.

WATC is waiting to hear from the DOE for the Final Program Review Determination. WATC is under no limitations, suspensions, or terminations enacted by the DOE.



Financial Responsibility Requirements

The college provides its annual audited financial statements and [A-133 audit](#) to the DOE, along with any findings and the college’s corrective action plan. Findings noted by the auditors are taken seriously, and necessary changes to the college’s policies and procedures are instituted. In no instances has the DOE disagreed with the college’s proposed changes.

The college prepares the Institutional Update for the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association (HLC-NCA) each year. The [Composite Financial Indicator](#) scores have consistently been very low due to annual losses. In January 2012, the college received a notice from HLC-NCA that the score for fiscal year 2010 fell in the below the zone category, which resulted in the college being referred to a financial panel for review. The college provided a package of information including its [Financial Discussion and Plan](#) and supporting documents. The HLC-NCA accepted the college’s plan. Due to continued improvements in the college’s fiscal operations and a reduction of debt, the composite scores increased slightly for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, moving into the “in zone” category. It is anticipated at this time that the composite scores will continue to improve for fiscal year 2013.

Default Rates

Since 2008, WATC has seen a gradual increase to the published [default rates](#). Congress made changes in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), which expands the two-year default rate to three years. In 2009, WATC experienced a larger increase for defaulted students; this can also be contributed to a greater increase in enrollment for general education courses. Included are averages provided by College Board for public two-year colleges that are comparable to WATC. Published two-year and three-year default rates are located on WATC’s myWATC. See Table 8.2, WATC Two-Year Cohort Default Rate, and Table 8.3, WATC Three-Year Cohort Default Rate.

Table 8.2

WATC Two-Year Cohort Default Rate				
Year	Borrowers in Default	Number in Cohort	WATC Percentage	US Department of Education Average
2008	1240	138	11.1	
2009	330	39	11.8	8.8
2010	553	84	15.1	9.1
2011	721	108	15.0	10.0

Table 8.3

WATC Three-Year Cohort Default Rate				
Year	Borrowers in Default	Number in Cohort	WATC Percentage	US Department of Education Average
2008*	301	50	16.6	
2009	335	67	20	13.4
2010	550	121	21.8	14.7

*2008 was a trial year for three-year cohort default rates



According to the HEA of 1965, if a postsecondary institution has a two-year default rate of 10 percent or higher, it must wait 30 days before disbursing federal financial aid for first-time, first-year undergraduate students. The HEA of 1965 also requires that postsecondary institutions that have a two-year default rate of 10 percent or higher must have multiple disbursements for students receiving federal student loans. WATC is required to comply with both of these regulations when administering federal student loan disbursements. To stay proactive and to reduce student loan borrowing for students who drop within the drop-refund period, WATC requires all student loan borrowers to have a 30-day wait period each semester.

With the increase from a two-year to a three-year default rate, Congress also included a provision that increased the threshold from 25 to 30 percent to identify institutions that are at risk of being sanctioned. Due to WATC's three-year default rates, WATC contracted with a third-party default management company to help reduce the number of delinquent borrowers.

In addition to the default management plan, WATC piloted a required online [financial literacy orientation](#) for a small population of summer 2013 students, and it was fully implemented in fall 2013 as part of the overall new student orientation. The topics discussed in the orientation are student loan borrowing, debit and credit card management, and credit score knowledge.

WATC does not recommend or refer any students to private student loan servicers.

Campus Crime Information

To stay in compliance with the HEOA of 2008, WATC has created an online resource center on the About tab on WATC's Web site for [Campus Safety](#) that provides faculty, staff, and students with the following disclosures:

- Access to WATC facilities
- Alcohol usage
- Board policies regarding safety
- Campus crime information, including annual security report
- Campus security policies
- Drug and alcohol abuse and prevention program
- Drug prevention, possession, and use




- Emergency guidelines
- Emergency evacuation procedures
- myWATC alerts
- Possession and/or use of weapons
- Reporting criminal activities
- Sexual assault prevention and response
- Sexual offenders on campus
- Timely warnings

WATC conducts semi-annual reviews of policies and preventative programs, which are readily available to faculty, staff, and students. The [annual report of crime statistics](#) for the past three years is located on the About tab on WATC's Web site and on myWATC. Categories included in the report are crimes committed on campus, in or around non-campus buildings, and on public property. Additionally, e-mail correspondence is sent to the WATC community in February and October each year with information pertaining to the annual report of crime statistics.

Student Right to Know

The HEOA of 2008 requires that postsecondary institutions that participate in Title IV federal student aid programs make certain disclosures available to students. WATC provides links to [required information](#) on WATC's Web site.

During the DOE Program Review in June 2012, WATC was in compliance with all required HEOA of 2008 materials. WATC makes a conscious effort to update and review all policies and procedures as needed.

 [Email Notification of Campus Crime and Safety](#)

Satisfactory Academic Progress and Attendance

The Satisfactory [Academic Progress](#) for Federal Financial Aid (SAP) policy is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. This policy can be found on WATC's Web site and is readily available to students.

The college's attendance policy is found in the Academic Code of Conduct. Select programs, such as Aviation Maintenance Technology, Practical Nurse, Surgical Technology, Medical Assistant, and Dental Assistant, have attendance policies. These programs are required to have attendance policies due to external organizations



mandating the number of hours students must attend to qualify to test for external licenses. Student access to these policies are available on the Website. The [attendance policy](#) section of the [Academic Code of Conduct](#) is included in each syllabus.


Contractual Relationships


WATC does not participate in any contractual agreements.

Consortial Relationships

When WATC assumed possession of the Southside Education Center (Southside) from Cowley College, it was agreed that WATC would continue to offer general education courses at Southside. Because WATC cannot offer associate of arts or associate of science degrees, students wishing to earn these degrees from Cowley College can continue to do so by taking courses through WATC. Thus, a [consortial agreement with Cowley College](#) began on July 1, 2008. During the transition time, Cowley College processed, awarded, and disbursed Title IV federal aid to eligible students enrolled at Southside for the summer 2008 term. Since fall 2008, WATC has calculated awards, disbursed aid, monitored satisfactory academic process and student eligibility, maintained records, and calculated the return of title IV funds for these students. A copy of the official Financial Aid Blanket Consortium Agreement between Cowley College and WATC can be found on myWATC.

On May 2, 2012, WATC and Pratt Community College (PCC) entered into a partnership agreement to form the South Central Kansas School of Nursing. WATC is the responsible party for providing the Practical Nurse technical certificate portion of the program. PCC is the responsible party for the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) portion of the program. A [consortial agreement was established with PCC](#) to support the partnership. WATC performs all Title IV functions for all students enrolled in WATC's Practical Nurse program. PCC is responsible for the same Title IV requirements for students enrolled in the ADN program. A copy of the official WATC and PCC consortial agreement can be found on myWATC.

 [Consortium Form for Cowley College](#)

 [Consortium Form for Pratt Community College](#)

Required Information for Students and the Public

The [college catalog](#) is available on the Web site. WATC does not provide a printed catalog. Archived catalogs can be found at [myWATC](#).

The college does not have a student handbook, but the Student tab on myWATC provides information commonly found in a student handbook.



Sections of the Web site that include required disclosure information.

[Calendar](#)

[Grading](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Academic Program Requirements](#)

[Tuition and Fees](#)

[Refund Policies](#)

Advertising and Recruitment Materials and Other Public Information

The college provides the general public with the mark of affiliation and a link to the [Higher Learning Commission's Statement of Affiliation Status](#).

Many other pages on WATC's Web site reference the college's accreditation:

<http://watc.edu/admissions/>

We are accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association and we have more than 75 programs from which to choose.

<http://watc.edu/admissions/why-watc/>

WATC is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

<http://watc.edu/admissions/college-catalog/the-college/>

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is part of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. NCA is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its Commissions, it accredits and thereby grants membership to educational institutions in the North Central region.

Wichita Area Technical College is fully accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association as of October 2008.

[The Higher Learning Commission](#)

30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504
Phone: 800.621.7440 / 312.263.0456
Fax: 312.263.7462

<http://watc.edu/admissions/faq/>



Who is WATC accredited by?

WATC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Our programs have individual accreditations as well.

<http://watc.edu/admissions/ace/>

Students can earn college credit taking courses at WATC, at a high school campus, or online. WATC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission making general and technical education course credits easily transferable to other colleges.

<http://watc.edu/about/accreditation/>

Wichita Area Technical College is preparing for re-accreditation from the [*Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools*](#) (HLC-NCA), which is scheduled for February 24-26, 2014.

<http://watc.edu/about/consumer-information/transfer-of-credit-policies-and-articulation-agreements/>

Additional transfer guides are in process with other institutions and will be added once they are finalized. WATC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. WATC's general education courses are accepted for transfer at most colleges and universities. Technical courses may be accepted by institutions with comparable courses or may otherwise be accepted as general elective credit.

<http://watc.edu/about/presidents-welcome/>

WATC is a public college supported by the state of Kansas through the Kansas Board of Regents and Sedgwick County and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the same accrediting body that accredits many colleges and universities across the country, including Wichita State University. This allows you a quality education that opens doors of opportunity to further your education.

<http://watc.edu/selfservice/>

When you graduate from WATC, you leave with the skills to fill critical employment needs, most right here in our community. We are accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, and we have over 75 programs to choose from. There are so many reasons why you should choose WATC to be your college!

<http://watc.edu/gen-eds/>

Tap into the advantages of WATC's quality core curriculum to enhance your technical education or as a foundation for a bachelor's degree. You can take your English, math, and other general education courses at WATC then transfer to a



four-year college. Our accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and close connections with Wichita State, Friends University, Newman University, and other universities facilitate the transfer process. You benefit from smaller, more individualized classes, lower costs per credit hour, and an unparalleled support team.

<http://wadc.edu/getstarted/>

We have more than 75 programs of study in Aviation, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Design, Business, Police Science, and General Education. Since we're accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, credits earned at WATC are transferable to continue and advance your education even further!

Additionally, WATC references its accreditation status using the following publicly available resources. With the exception of the "Give Your Career LIFT" brochure, each item is produced or updated annually and is available to prospective students, current students, faculty, staff, community members, and other members of the general public. The following text is used in reference to the college's accreditation status:

Commencement Program:

"Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools"

Course Schedule:

"THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION – NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is part of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. NCA is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its commissions, it accredits and thereby grants membership to educational institutions in the North Central region. Wichita Area Technical College is fully accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association as of October 2008.

The Higher Learning Commission

30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400 | Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504

800.621.7440 | 312.263.0456 | Fax 312.263.7462 | www.ncahlc.org"



[“Give Your Career LIFT” Brochure:](#)

“Wichita Area Technical College is a Kansas Board of Regents Institution and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.”

[College Catalog:](#)

“The Higher Learning Commission – North Central Association”

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is part of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. NCA is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its Commissions, it accredits and thereby grants membership to educational institutions in the North Central region.

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[The Higher Learning Commission](#)

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Review of Student Outcome Data

WATC makes an effort not only to collect student outcome data, but also to [share that data with the public and prospective students](#). In keeping with HEOA of 2008 requirements, WATC publishes [student completion, retention](#), and placement data on its Web site. In addition to these IPEDS-related outcome figures, WATC also provide the same figures over a five-year period for all programs. The college also provides licensure and certification results as part of Gainful Employment requirements. Each Title IV program in which students have the opportunity to earn industry credentials, license, or certifications, has a section in their Gainful Employment disclosures document listing the pass rate for the previous year.

The college uses student outcome data in numerous [planning measures](#). For example, Strategic Plan Goals 2.3 and 2.4 utilize program completion data. All four indicators for these goals are included in the college’s [KBOR Performance Agreement](#). Program retention, completion, and placement data is also shared with program leadership and faculty through the program review process. [Section B](#) and [Section C](#), which are sections of the program review process, provide annual results for student outcomes, including licensure/certification exams earned. Faculty provide responses to these documents, and the responses are used for planning the next academic year.

 [Gainful Employment Program Sheets](#)


 [Program Review Document](#)




Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies

The majority of WATC's programs maintain some type of relationship with an external accrediting agency, [see Appendix E](#). In some cases, these relationships are mandatory to participate in program alignment or to offer the program. In other cases, WATC faculty and leadership have decided that maintaining the accreditation is in the program's and college's best interests. WATC publicizes the relationship, and since the last HLC-NCA visit in 2008, has not had any accreditations withdrawn from programs. Since 2009, five programs have participated in reaccreditation with all being successful. During this time, two programs added accreditations. The Practical Nurse program withdrew its accreditation with the National League for Nursing. The decision to withdraw the program's accreditation with this organization was made due to rising costs and the lack of registered nurse programs in Kansas participating.

WATC believes that program accreditation, like HLC-NCA accreditation, is vital to program oversight and success. As new programs are developed, WATC continues to pursue external accreditations.

 [Dental Assistant - Program Features - Accreditation Statement](#)

 [Dental Assistant - Program of Study - Accreditation Statement](#)

Public Notification of Opportunity to Comment

On October 3, 2013, the college publicized its candidacy for reaccreditation to a broad range of internal and external constituents. Included in the notification was an opportunity for the public to comment through multiple channels. The following constituents and communication methodologies were central to notification efforts:

- [Web site](#) newsroom article
- [E-mail](#) to all faculty, staff, and students
- News releases to [local media](#)
- News releases to [Wichita Business Journal](#)
- College [e-News](#)

