YEAR 7 ACCREDITATION

Where we are.
What matters.
What comes next.

October 2026 State of the Pond Presentation

Adapted from Greg Dempsey and Ben Machado's presentation at South Seattle College's Presidents Day

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

THE CULMINATING YEAR

Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

What is Accreditation

Accreditation is a process of recognizing educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public.

Accreditation Principles

- Foster excellence through the development of criteria and guidelines for assessing educational quality and institutional effectiveness;
- Encourage institutional improvement through continuous self-study and evaluation
- Ensure the educational community, the general public, and other organizations that an institution has clearly defined and appropriate educational objectives, has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected, appears in fact to be substantially accomplishing them, and is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to do so.

Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

The Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE), also called the Year Seven, is a comprehensive, summative evaluation of the institution, occurring in the seventh year of the accreditation cycle. The EIE addresses all Standards and reaffirms the institution's continued compliance with the Eligibility Requirements

Year 7 is the culmination of a seven-year cycle

Today's focus: connect the cycle, the report, and the April 2027 peer visit.

Annual reporting + ongoing improvement



Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2025

Year 6 PRFR Spring 2026

Year 7 EIE Spring 2027

Are we accomplishing our mission—and can we show how we know, learn, and improve?

What is the Year 7 designed to test

Not “Did we write a good report?” but “**Can we demonstrate institutional effectiveness?**”

1

MISSION

Clear goals + measurable outcomes

2

EVIDENCE

Data and feedback inform decisions

3

STUDENT SUCCESS

Outcomes, learning, equity, completion

4

IMPROVEMENT

Planning, assessment + resources connect

Year 7 asks us to explain the work we already do—and show the evidence that it makes a difference.

The report is focused. The visit is broader.

That distinction matters for campus readiness.

YEAR 7 REPORT

FOCUSED

Primary narrative emphasis

- Standard 1 — Student Success & Institutional Mission / Effectiveness
- Outstanding Recommendations
- PRFR Type 1 — findings

APRIL 2027 PEER VISIT

BROADER

Campus conversations may reach across divisions

STANDARD 1

Mission • Student success • Learning • Effectiveness • Planning

STANDARD 2

Governance • Policies • Resources • Student support • Institutional capacity

Mission is the anchor

Year 7 begins with a simple question: what does achieving our mission look like at North?

“As an open-access institution, Seattle Colleges prepares each student for success in life and work, fostering a diverse, engaged, and dynamic community.”



MISSION FULFILLMENT

Sustained demonstration of institutional effectiveness through outcomes aligned with our mission and strategic priorities.

How North defines mission fulfillment

A consistent methodology carried forward into the 2024–2034 strategic plan.

9

North Stars

Analyzed locally to understand performance, trends, and equity gaps.

Targets

To be approved by College Council

THE IMPORTANT PART

Evidence → Action → Reflection

We use evidence to inform planning, prioritize resources, and document improvement—not simply to “pass” a scorecard.

Mission fulfillment is both performance and the disciplined use of evidence for continuous improvement.

From President’s Day to the peer site visit

We are moving from drafting → refinement → campus readiness → visit execution.

FALL 2026	WINTER 2027	FEB. 2027	MAR.–APR. 2027
Documenting Our Impact	**Preparing to Represent North**	**Submit the EIE Report**	**Confidently Telling Our Story**
Drafting + evidence	College Council will complete it's 1st and 2nd reads	Final review + submission	Campus readiness
Working draft Dec. 18	**Final draft Jan. 29**	**End of February**	**Visit Apr. 14–16**

Today → **April 14–16, 2027**

What we want everyone to carry forward

You do not need to be an accreditation expert. You do need to be able to tell North's story.

1. **Know the mission** — How does your work contribute to student success and North's priorities?
2. **Know your evidence** — What data, feedback, assessment, or outcomes help you understand effectiveness?
3. **Know your learning story** — What have you learned or changed—and what are you still working to improve?

Mission Fulfillment: the District Strategic Plan, the Core Themes, and the Operating Plan

The Operational Plan

The operational plan is a two-year document that tracks initiatives and activities that North will implement to track progress on Mission Fulfillment. The plan aligns with three eight-year planning documents that organize our mission (open access, student success in life and work, diverse engaged and dynamic community).

The operational plan is what we do.

Core Themes

Core Themes are value statements that guide how we carry out initiatives and activities in the operating plan. They outline our priorities within the work.

The operational plan is what we do; the core themes guide how we do the work.

Seattle College District Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is a ten-year document that establishes broad goals for all three colleges and the district office. It establishes district wide priorities, ensures appropriate alignment between the colleges and district, and creates space for cross campus collaboration.

The Strategic Plan sets the table for the work of the operational plan and the core themes.

In action:

Operational Plan Initiative	Informed by Core Themes:	Aligned with District Strategic Plan Goals
Intake and Onboarding Redesign	Advancing Student Success • Supporting a caring, inclusive, student-centered culture. • We promote student engagement through embracing diversity of cultures, ideas, perspectives and peoples. • We strive for quality across student services, instruction, and administrative services areas so that our students have the ability to excel.	Goal 2: Holistic and Inclusive Student Experience - Implement targeted outreach programs; and streamline and align admissions and financial aid processes for all students. - Establish a comprehensive student feedback loop that gathers insights and informs actionable improvements to enhance the overall student experience.