

# Sierra Lutheran High School WASC/NLSA Accreditation 2021

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# Accreditation History

2012-2013 Self-Study through National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) with reciprocity with the Northwest Accreditation Commission

2013 Site visit -- Full accreditation through NLSA and Northwest Accreditation Commission

This pathway closed in 2016.

2017 Initial Self-Study through Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Colleges and Schools (ACS WASC) in conjunction with NLSA

November 2017 Site visit -- Full accreditation through ACS WASC and NLSA

2020-2021 Self-Study through ACS WASC and NLSA

# Outcomes of the Self-Study

- The involvement and collaboration of all staff and stakeholders to support student achievement.
- The clarification and measurement of what all students should know, understand, and be able to do through schoolwide learner outcomes (SLOs) and academic standards.
- The analysis of data about students and student achievement.
- The assessment of the entire school program and its impact on student learning in relation to the SLOs, academic standards, ACS WASC criteria, and NLSA criteria.
- The alignment of a long-range action plan to the school's areas of need; the capacity to implement and monitor the accomplishments of the plan.

# WASC Timeline

(use the above link to see the full timeline)

## Spring 2020:

- Task 1/Chapter 1: Create a Student/Community Profile
- Task 2/Chapter 2: Summarize the progress since the November 2017 site visit
- Task 3/Chapter 3: Summary of data and progress and identification of 2-3 critical learner needs
- Task 4/Chapter 4: Self-study findings

## Fall 2020

- Taks 5/Chapter 5: Develop a comprehensive schoolwide action plan

## Spring 2021

- Site visit

# Focus Groups and Home Groups

(use the above link to see the members  
in each Focus Group)

## Focus Groups:

- A. Organization for Student Learning
- B. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- C. Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth
- D. Resource Management and Development

## Home Groups:

- Academic Departments/Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) -- Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Data
- Student
- Parent & Community

# Task 1/Chapter 1

- WASC Coordinator completes a draft of the current school/community profile (Dec 2019)
- All Focus Groups review the school/community profile (core values and beliefs, the vision, the mission, SLOs and data) (Jan/Feb 2020)
- All Focus Groups determine the implications of the data and select two to three critical learner needs based on the data (Jan/Feb 2020)
- All Focus Groups discuss:
  - What are the current and future learning needs of the students?
  - What does it mean to be an educated person?
  - What is the most effective preparation of students for their future?

# Task 2/Chapter 2

- WASC coordinator summarizes the progress on the schoolwide action plan that incorporated the critical areas of follow up from the [November 2017 site visit](#) (Dec 2019)
- All Focus Groups use this information along with the information in the school/community profile (Chapter 1) to help identify 2-3 critical learner needs (Jan/Feb 2020)

# Task 3/Chapter 3

- All Focus Groups determine the implications of the profile (Chapter 1) and progress data (Chapter 2) and identify 2-3 critical learner needs (Feb/March 2020)
- All Focus Groups come together to determine 3-4 important questions that have been raised by the analysis of the student performance, demographic, and perception data (Chapter 1) and progress data (Chapter 2)(Feb/March 2020)



# Task 4/Chapter 4

- All Focus Groups evaluate the quality of the school program in relation to WASC/NLSA criteria with emphasis on SLOs
- All Focus Groups synthesize the information and determine strength and growth needs
- Each Focus Group (A, B, C and D) looks at and discusses the criteria, indicators, and prompts for each criteria category to determine what currently exists and its effectiveness (support material will be needed)
- Show examples
- Each Focus Group needs to determine if additional data is necessary to answer the prompt and decide what is needed from the Home Groups

# WASC Criteria, Indicators, and Prompts

## A1. School Purpose Criterion

To what extent does the school a) have a clear statement of purpose that reflects the beliefs and philosophy of the institution and b) define the purpose further by adopted schoolwide learner outcomes that form the basis of the educational program for every student?

Indicator: The school is operated by one or more congregations of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or maintains an active RSO status with Synod.

Prompt: Comment on whether or not the school is operated by at least one congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

# Self-study Findings and Evidence

SLHS is a Registered Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) and is under the jurisdiction of the California Nevada Hawaii District (CNH) of the LCMS. SLHS is governed by an association of churches with three local Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) churches and three non-Lutheran churches, were two-thirds of the Board members are from the LCMS churches.

Evidence:

SLHS By-Laws

List of Association Churches

# Task 5/Chapter 5

- All Focus Groups work toward a revised school wide action plan that has the following elements:
  - Statement of area for improvement that is student-focused
  - Rationale for area based on self-study findings
  - Link to one or more critical learner needs and SLOs
  - Ways of assessing progress, including student achievement of critical learner needs, SLOs, and academic standards
  - Means to monitor and report progress
  - Who is responsible and involved
  - Specific steps, including professional development
  - Timeline
  - Resources

# WASC Toolbox

- Shared google folder that contains
  - Chp I Student/Community Profile
  - Chp II Progress Report
  - SLOs and Metrics
  - Initial WASC description and Site Visit Report
- Working documents
  - Chp III Implications of the Data
  - Focus Group A Self-Study
  - Focus Group B Self Study
  - Focus Group C Self Study
  - Focus Group D Self Study