

Field Studies

Field-study courses can enrich students learning experiences at Northwest. These studies deepen participants understanding of history, culture, arts, language, and the environment. Courses are offered during weekends, Winter Holiday, Spring Break, and summer months. Recent field-study programs involved trips to Ireland, Hawaii, France, South America, Israel, and the southwestern United States.

Theme Houses

Theme Houses provide rich living and learning experiences. Students with common academic interests share an apartment in Trapper Village West. Faculty sponsors provide class meetings at the house and work with students to deliver community service projects. Credit is available. Students are typically sophomores carrying a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

Academic Activities

Northwest College fields teams in Equine Judging, Forensics, and Livestock Judging that compete nationally and have achieved significant rankings. The Livestock Show Team competes regionally.

Students interested in music and publications have opportunities to participate on campus regardless of their area of specialization.

See the Enrollment Services Office for more information about these academic-related activities.

Honors Program

The Honors Program at Northwest College provides recognition of outstanding academic ability, additional intellectual stimulation, and increased social and cultural opportunities.

Honors courses enhance independent thinking by requiring in-depth and coherent analysis of subject matter and ideas. Honors Program courses are noted on students' NWC transcripts.

Honor Society

The purpose of the Phi Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society is to promote scholarship, the development of leadership and service, and the cultivation of fellowship among qualified honor students at Northwest College. A student must successfully complete 15 credit hours of course work and maintain a 3.5 grade point average to be eligible for membership.

Capstone Courses

All students graduating from Northwest College complete a capstone course as a part of their degree requirements. In capstone courses, students

- demonstrate their understanding of and ability to apply important knowledge and skills in their field and from general education;
- receive feedback on their work from professionals beyond the instructor;
- contribute information that will help faculty know how to redesign their curriculum so students more effectively master important knowledge and skills.

Extended Campus

Northwest College recognizes the need for lifelong learning. The Office of Extended Campus provides educational opportunities in Park, Big Horn, and Washakie Counties.

Classes for college credit and student support services are available in Big Horn Basin communities. Extended Campus credit courses parallel the standards and requirements set at Northwest College. NWC offers on-site instruction in several Basin communities and interactive television courses.

Residents seeking additional information about the programs and services available in their area are encouraged to contact the Office of Extended Campus.

Work Force

Development and Continuing Education

The College is committed to providing a variety of training programs, certificates, and courses where participants master the technical, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills expected for today's work force. Contract training can be customized for a specific business. Skill-focused sessions are open to people throughout the Big Horn Basin.

Cooperative Education, Independent Study, and Internships

Students are encouraged to complete an internship and/or cooperative-learning work experience in order to deepen their knowledge and build their employment skills. A number of the college's degree specializations require an internship experience. Faculty advisors and the Director of Cooperative Education Programs are excellent resources for identifying appropriate working-and-learning situations.

Students may earn credit for a variety of planned, independently designed academic programs which include cooperative education, independent study, and internships.

Students may carry a maximum of 15 credit hours of cooperative education, independent study, and internship credit to fulfill associate degree requirements, applying no more than six credits of any one of these options toward the total of 15 credits. To receive credit, students must enroll in these options and successfully complete their contracted learning objectives.

The college assesses regular tuition and fees for each credit. The Registrar notes the course on the student's transcript by listing the course, the credit earned, and the grade earned.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Cooperative Education allows students to earn academic credit and gain on-the-job experience in paid positions related to their fields of study.

A student who wants to participate in the Cooperative Education Program

may already be employed in a related field or may seek the assistance of the Cooperative Education Office in finding suitable employment. The employer always has the final decision in hiring. The student, a faculty advisor, the Cooperative Education Director, and the employer enter into an agreement which defines the student's learning objectives.

Eligibility for Cooperative Education differs for full-time and part-time students:

- Full-time students must concurrently enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours. *Cooperative Education is not considered part of the initial 12 eligibility hours.*
- Part-time students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of post-secondary education.

Registration for Cooperative Education is open. However, if the paperwork is in place, it can be done at regular registration and will run concurrent with the semester. Students will be given start and end dates for their Cooperative Education experience along with a drop date in case the student decides to drop.

Students may apply for a total of six Cooperative Education credits. Each credit hour will equal 70 hours in the workplace.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study courses allow students to design individualized academic courses in cooperation with a full-time faculty member. Students may take up to three credits of independent study per semester but may apply only a total of six credits of independent study toward an associate's degree.

Students may obtain forms for independent study from the Instructional Offices.

INTERNSHIPS

The Internship program allows students to gain professional experience through placement with a business or organization within the Big Horn Basin. Internships may or may not be paid work experiences, but they all involve a structured evaluation process. They provide students who have declared a disciplinary major (or clear programmatic focus) the opportunity to observe and participate in a profession.

Students may apply a total of six internship credits toward graduation. For more information, contact a faculty member within the particular discipline of interest.

Developmental Courses

A strong foundation in math, writing, and reading is essential for college success. Students complete placement testing in these subject areas before they register for classes the first time. Students who do not score at the college level on these tests will be placed in courses designed to support development of these important skills. Developmental courses carry college credit but do not count toward graduation requirements. Students who believe their test scores do not reflect their proficiency in these subjects may take the computer test again or ask to complete a paper and pencil version.

Study skills are another important element for college success. Northwest College offers two one-credit courses to help students acquire these critical skills. HMDV 1000 and 1010 are particularly useful in helping students master use of the electronic library and computer labs. These courses **do count** toward graduation and are highly recommended for all students.

Adult Basic Education, GED and English as a Second Language

Designed to strengthen basic reading, writing, and math skills for adults, the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program meets a wide variety of individual needs and responds to a diverse population of adult learners. Instruction is handled in small groups or by individual tutoring at no cost to participants.

Individualized and small-class instruction in preparation for the General Education Development (GED) Exam is offered throughout the year. Northwest College is a GED Testing Center. Individuals wanting to take the class or test can make arrangements with the Adult Basic Education Director.

English as a Second Language (ESL) is a program that teaches English language skills to adults whose first language is not English. The program seeks to develop an understanding of American culture and society to facilitate effective citizenship. For further information, call the NWC Adult Basic Education Director.

Community Education

Powell Valley Community Education, supported cooperatively by Northwest College and Park County School District Number One, provides programs for personal enrichment, driver's education, and continuing education to residents of the Powell area, plus Elderhostel classes and the Powell Health Fair. These courses cover a wide range of topics and carry no high school or college credit. Classes for adults are offered during the fall and winter/spring semesters.

Suggestions for specific programs and instructors are welcome. For more information, call the Office of Community Education.

Noncredit classes are open to adults age 17 or older. Younger students are welcome to enroll on a space-available basis with permission of the instructor. The instructor's decision will be based on the maturity level of the student, safety factors, etc. Exceptions will be made when classes are designed specifically for youth.