

An Overview of Core Themes

Basic elements of core themes:

- Core themes describe how Lane fulfills its mission.
- Core themes need to reflect essential elements of Lane's Mission.
- Core themes are threaded through our decision-making process and will inform the metrics for institutional effectiveness and program review.
- Core themes should be stated simply, and there should be a limited number of objectives and indicators. Core themes need to have measurable objectives and indicators, and they need to have an established threshold to determine if we are meeting the objectives.
- Core themes need to balance aspirational goals with verifiable data, and they need to assist us in improving if we don't meet the established threshold.
- The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) expects one core theme to be about student learning.
- For examples of what other colleges are doing, see the following:
 - <http://www.chemeketa.edu/aboutchemeketa/learnaboutus/vision.html>
 - <https://www.highline.edu/about-us/>
 - http://www.pcc.edu/resources/academic/documents/PCCMission_CoreThemes_Objectives_Oct14.pdf
 - <http://www.spokanefalls.edu/college/Mission.aspx>

What core themes are not:

- Core themes do not change Lane's mission.
- Core themes are not a strategic plan. The strategic plan (strategic directions) is developed to help the college achieve core theme objectives and indicators.