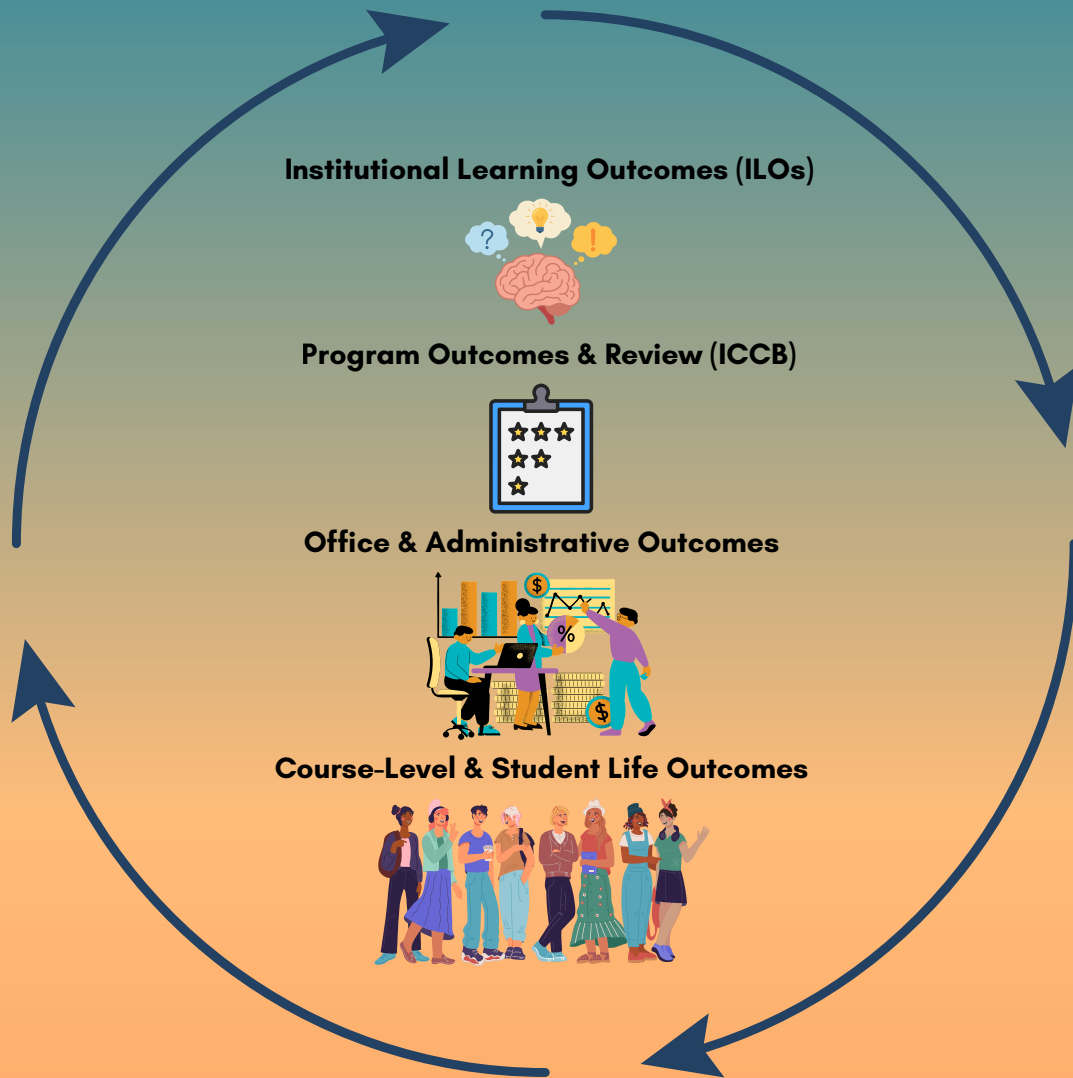


Outcomes at Waubonsee



REDEFINE

Our Relationship with the Community



INVEST

in Academic Innovation



STRENGTHEN

the Student Experience



ENRICH

the Employee Experience

Outcomes at Waubonsee

Outcomes Innovation Council (OIC) Update Spring 2026 | Academic Year 2025–2026

Strengthening Assessment, Accreditation Readiness, and Institutional Collaboration

Throughout Spring 2026, the Outcomes Innovation Council (OIC) continued to expand Waubonsee Community College's culture of assessment, collaboration, and continuous improvement through work connected to accreditation readiness, outcomes reporting, faculty support, and strategic planning.

Building on the momentum established during Fall 2025, the council focused much of its spring work on strengthening HLC evidence collection processes, refining institutional assessment systems, supporting faculty and future department chairs, and advancing the development of the college's All-College Outcomes Assessment Plan.

The spring semester also reflected the growing integration between assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, faculty development, and the RISE 2030 Strategic Plan.

Supporting HLC Readiness and Evidence Collection

A major focus throughout Spring 2026 was supporting institutional readiness for the upcoming Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Comprehensive Evaluation.

During February meetings, OIC reviewed the HLC Canvas course and discussed ways to encourage broader participation in monthly evidence submissions connected to HLC criteria and RISE 2030 priorities.

The council explored opportunities to create collaborative or group evidence submissions and discussed how OIC could support institutional evidence gathering efforts across departments and divisions.

OIC also emphasized the importance of helping faculty better understand the condensed Outcomes Report process and discussed adding simplified directions and support materials to improve accessibility and usability.

As part of these efforts:

- Faculty were encouraged to submit HLC evidence regularly
- Monthly HLC modules continued through the Canvas course
- Reflection activities tied to HLC and RISE themes were integrated into engagement efforts
- Discussions connected institutional assessment work directly to accreditation expectations

In March 2026, OIC reviewed reflection activities connected to:

- RISE 2030 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities
- HLC Criterion 1.C related to diversity of society
- Civic engagement and multicultural learning reflections

These conversations reinforced the institution's commitment to embedding accreditation readiness into ongoing institutional practice rather than treating HLC preparation as a standalone activity.

Developing Resources for Faculty and Department Chairs

Throughout the semester, OIC discussed the need for additional assessment resources and onboarding supports for current and future department chairs.

The council identified opportunities to create:

- Simplified assessment resource guides
- Centralized assessment information pages
- Canvas-based support resources
- Quick-reference materials related to outcomes reporting and program review
- Guidance for navigating curriculum maps, outcomes reports, and prior documentation

The council consistently emphasized that assessment processes should remain accessible, collaborative, and supportive for faculty and instructional leaders.

During discussions regarding the future structure of OIC, members reinforced the importance of maintaining faculty-centered leadership and liaison support structures.

OIC discussions emphasized that the council serves as an important faculty voice and that assessment processes should remain connected to faculty experiences and end-user needs.

The council also reinforced the importance of maintaining liaison support for department chairs and preserving strong connections between Faculty Development, the Division of Teaching and Learning, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Advancing the All-College Outcomes Assessment Plan

One of the most significant accomplishments of Spring 2026 was the continued development and review of the draft Waubensee Community College All-College Outcomes Assessment Plan.

During April meetings, OIC reviewed the draft assessment framework and discussed how the institution's outcomes structures connect across multiple levels, including:

- Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
- Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
- ICCB outcomes and Program Review
- Co-curricular assessment
- RISE 2030 strategic priorities

The council also reviewed the "Outcomes at Waubensee" process and discussed how assessment work would continue evolving within Institutional Effectiveness while maintaining close collaboration with the Division of Teaching and Learning and Faculty Development.

These discussions reflected the institution's ongoing efforts to create a more integrated and sustainable assessment infrastructure that supports:

- Institutional effectiveness
- Student success
- Strategic planning
- Accreditation readiness
- Cross-functional collaboration

Reviewing Criterion 3 Evidence and Assessment Systems

Throughout March and April, OIC reviewed significant institutional evidence related to HLC Criterion 3 and institutional assessment processes.

The council examined:

- Curriculum maps
- Outcomes reporting forms
- Program Review documentation
- 5-Year ICCB Schedule Audit materials
- Assessment reports and evidence
- Co-curricular assessment documentation

These reviews helped identify institutional strengths while also highlighting opportunities for continued improvement.

In particular, OIC identified several areas for future development, including:

- Strengthening co-curricular assessment documentation
- Formalizing assessment processes for basic college knowledge courses
- Expanding first-year experience assessment conversations
- Increasing centralized access to assessment resources

The council acknowledged that while Waubensee offers college knowledge and student support-related courses, the institution does not currently require a formal first-year experience program. Discussions involving Academic Support, DERA, and ASPIRE began exploring how these areas could support more coordinated assessment planning moving forward.

Expanding Institutional Assessment Infrastructure

Spring 2026 also marked continued progress toward centralizing institutional outcomes reporting and assessment processes.

OIC discussed the use of Qualtrics as a centralized system for collecting new assessment and outcomes reporting information across the institution.

These conversations reflected broader institutional goals to:

- Improve accessibility to assessment information
- Strengthen consistency in reporting processes
- Support institutional data collection and analysis
- Improve long-term sustainability of assessment systems

The semester also included increased collaboration with Institutional Research and Analytics and discussions regarding the role of institutional research in supporting evidence-informed improvement efforts.

Reflection and Recognition

The academic year concluded with an end-of-year OIC celebration recognizing the significant contributions of council members to outcomes assessment, HLC readiness, faculty support, and institutional collaboration. The May 2026 gathering provided an opportunity for the council to reflect on the collaborative work completed throughout the year and celebrate the institution's continued progress toward strengthening assessment and continuous improvement systems.

The council also acknowledged that OIC's future structure and meeting processes would continue evolving as assessment responsibilities transition more fully into Institutional Effectiveness while maintaining strong faculty collaboration and leadership connections.

As Waubonsee moves into Academic Year 2026–2027 and prepares for the HLC Comprehensive Evaluation, the work of OIC continues to demonstrate the institution’s commitment to:

- Continuous improvement
- Faculty collaboration
- Student success
- Evidence-informed decision-making
- Strategic alignment with RISE 2030
- Sustainable institutional effectiveness practices

The work completed throughout Spring 2026 reflects a growing institutional culture in which assessment is viewed not simply as reporting, but as a collaborative process that strengthens teaching, learning, student support, and institutional effectiveness across the college.

