

LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWE COLLEGE

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College (LCOOC) was founded in 1982 on the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe reservation in Northwest Wisconsin. There are Outreach sites at four other Ojibwe reservations in Wisconsin – Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, and St. Croix. Our advanced technology allows virtually any student to enroll in LCOOC courses via Interactive Television and online courses. LCOOC grants Associates Degrees and one-year Certificates. Several agreements are in place for LCOOC students to earn an Associate degree and then transfer on for a Bachelor of Arts degree. LCOOC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College mission is to provide Anishinaabe communities with post-secondary and continuing education while advancing the language, culture, and history of the Ojibwe.

PHILOSOPHY

The college curriculum will reflect identified needs and interests of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa by providing academic, vocational, adult basic education, cultural, and community programs. The primary purpose is to meet the needs of the Native American population and maintain an open-door policy.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

Provide quality instruction for academic and personal enhancement.

Offer appropriate curriculum leading to bachelor's and Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied

Science degrees, one-year certificates, specialized certificates, and programs of cultural enrichment.

STUDENT SERVICES

- Maintain open enrollment.
- Foster student growth in areas of cultural interest and social development.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Help develop resources and technical assistance for community projects and community research.
- Function as an information and educational resource in the community. Provide leadership for cultural preservation. Facilitate training for tribal economic development.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

All students in bachelor and associate degrees and certificate programs need to complete courses that meet the General Education requirements. The General Education Program at LCOOC is intended to provide a foundation for future academic and career success. It presents an array of disciplines enabling our students to make informed decisions, develop an understanding of diversity, and create enthusiasm for learning. Built into the foundation of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College is the strong heritage and ethnicity that the college and the community have to offer. While meeting the needs and standards of a sound General Education, LCOOC has incorporated materials in the curriculum coursework to include the culture, wisdom, and self-determination of the Lake Superior Ojibwe.

HISTORY OF LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWE COLLEGE

In 1982, a task force of educators and parents undertook the establishment of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College now known as the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College. A Needs Assessment and Planning effort was conducted in the summer of 1982 and the task force called on the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a feasibility study to determine the appropriateness of a tribal community college at Lac Courte Oreilles.

In August of 1982, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board chartered the college and provided it with Articles of Incorporation. Classes were held throughout the 1982 – 1983 academic year primarily through the volunteer efforts of part-time instructors.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted on-site evaluations in April of 1983 and notified the college that it had fulfilled all requirements and was approved for funding for the fiscal year under P.L. 95-471, the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978. This Act continues to be the prime source of funding for the college.

LCOOC granted its first certificates of completion in the Community Health Educator program in June 1985. In May 1986, the college granted its first Associate of Arts Degree.

LCOOC was granted candidate status for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in February 1987. This six-year accreditation process resulted in full accreditation of all programs in February 1993. Credit transfer agreements with public and private colleges and universities were signed and two-plus-two agreements in Nursing with UW-Eau Claire and Agriculture and Natural Resource Management with UW-River Falls were developed to facilitate transfer of LCOOC students to baccalaureate programs. In 1998, LCOOC was granted an additional 8 years of reaccreditation.

LCOOC received Land Grant Status approval on October 5, 1994, in legislation passed by the U.S. Congress within the Tribal College Act Endowment Amendment. This Amendment was attached to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

In spring 2003, the Cultural Resource Center was completed with the grand opening in November 2004. In May 2007, the Library at LCOOC was completed and the grand opening was held in August 2007.

In 2011 the College dedicated a fully equipped Nursing Simulation Lab to support instruction in Allied Health programs. In the fall of 2016, a new 6100 sq. ft. facility was dedicated, replacing a portion of campus that had been severely damaged during a fire in 2012. This new “600 Wing” addition contains a large Student Commons, a commercial kitchen, a study room, a classroom, and storage spaces and houses the College’s Extension programs and staff.