



**Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

**INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY FORM  
PREPARED FOR COMMISSION REVIEWS**

**Name of Institution:** Northwest-Shoals Community College

**Date:** 03-07-08

**Accreditation Liaison**

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**Educational Programs**

1. Level of offerings (Check all that apply)

- Diploma or certificate program(s) requiring less than one year beyond Grade 12
- Diploma or certificate program(s) of at least two but fewer than four years of work beyond Grade 12
- Associate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 60 semester hours or the equivalent designed for transfer to a baccalaureate institution
- Associate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 60 semester hours or the equivalent not designed for transfer
- Four or five-year baccalaureate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 120 semester hours or the equivalent
- Professional degree program(s)
- Master's degree program(s)
- Work beyond the master's level but not at the doctoral level (such as Specialist in Education)
- Doctoral degree program(s)
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Undergraduate Programs (Check all that apply)

- Occupational certificate or diploma program(s)
- Occupational degree program(s)
- Two-year programs designed for transfer to a baccalaureate institution
- Liberal Arts and General
- Teacher Preparatory
- Professional
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

***History and Characteristics***

Northwest-Shoals Community College is a comprehensive two-year public institution. The College is part of the Alabama College System, a statewide system of postsecondary colleges, governed by the Alabama State Board of Education. The mission of the College states that “Northwest-Shoals Community College provides vocational, technical, academic and lifelong educational opportunities; promotes economic growth; and enhances the quality of life for the people of Northwest Alabama.”

Northwest-Shoals was formed in 1993 through a merger of Shoals Community College and Northwest Community College. The College service area includes the counties of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and the western portion of Winston. The College operates two campuses separated by approximately 30 miles: the Shoals campus in Muscle Shoals, AL and the Phil Campbell campus in Phil Campbell, AL.

The college maintains and “open-door” admissions policy and considers all qualified applicants for admission. The following tables describe the current student population.

Ethnicity	
White	85.37%
Black	10.62%
Hispanic	.95%
Native	1.08%
Asian	.87%
Other	1.38%

Gender	
Male	39.93%
Female	60.07%

Age	
0-24	70.31%
25-49	26.89%
50 and older	2.80%

## ***List of Degrees***

Associate in Arts (A.A.)  
Associate in Science (A.S.)  
Associate in Occupational Technology (A.O.T.)  
Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.)  
Career Certificate  
Short-Term Certificate

## ***Majors and Concentrations:***

### **Associate in Arts**

Art  
General Liberal Arts  
Music  
Pre-Law  
Teacher Education  
    Pre-Elementary Education  
    Pre-Secondary Education

### **Associate in Science**

Agriculture – Vocational Ed  
Business Administration  
Child Development  
Computer Info Systems  
Pre-Computer Science  
Environmental Health and Safety  
General Education  
Fire Science/Fire Service Mgt  
Medical Terminology  
Outdoor Leadership  
Pre-Chemical Lab Technician  
Pre-Criminal Justice  
Pre-Dentistry  
Pre-Engineering  
Pre-Environmental Biology  
Pre-Environmental Science  
Pre-Financial Planning & Counseling  
Pre-Forestry  
Pre-Health, PE and Recreation  
Pre-Industrial Hygiene  
Pre-Medicine  
Pre-Nursing (B.S.N.)  
Pre-Optometry  
Pre-Pharmacy  
Pre-Physical Therapy  
Pre-Veterinary Medicine  
Water & Wastewater Mgt & Tech

### **Associate in Occupational Technology**

Air Conditioning/Refrigeration  
Automotive Collision Repair  
Carpentry/Cabinetmaking  
Cosmetology  
Electrical Technology  
Machine Shop Technology  
Welding

### **Associate in Applied Science**

Allied Health – Linkage  
    Clinical Laboratory Science  
    Dental Assisting  
    Dental Hygiene  
    Diagnostic Imaging  
    Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
    Health Information Technology  
    Human Services  
    Medical Assistant  
    Medical Transcription (Certificate)  
    Occupational Therapist Asst.  
    Pharmacy Technology  
    Physical Therapist Assistant  
    Respiratory Therapy  
    Sports Medicine (A.S. Degree)  
Child Development  
Computer Information Systems Tech  
    Programming Option  
    Personal Computer Systems  
Criminal Justice  
Design Engineering Technology  
Electronics Technology  
    Biomedical Equipment Tech  
Emergency Medical Services  
Environmental Health & Safety Tech  
Industrial Maintenance  
Office Administration  
    Accounting Option  
    Administrative Professional Option  
    Clerical Option  
Registered Nursing

### **Career Certificates**

Accounting Technology  
A/C, Heating & Refrigeration  
Automotive Collision Repair  
Carpentry/Cabinetmaking  
Cosmetology  
Electrical Technology  
EMT-Paramedic  
Machine Tool/CNC  
Office Administration  
Practical Nursing  
Welding

### **Short-Term General Certificate**

Basic Automotive Service Tech  
Advanced Automotive Service Tech  
Basic Automotive Collision Repair  
Biomedical Equipment Technology  
Basic Cabinetmaking  
Basic Carpentry  
Chemical Laboratory Technician  
Child Development  
Computer Aided Drafting & Design Tech  
Computer Technology  
    PC Hardware Technician  
    PC Software Technician  
Cosmetology Esthetics  
Cosmetology/Nail Technology  
Cosmetology Instructor Training  
EMT- Basic  
Energy Management Technology  
Environmental, Health & Safety Tech  
Fire Science/Fire Services Mgt  
Nondestructive Testing Technology  
Nursing Assistant  
Water & Wastewater Management  
Basic Welding Technology  
Wood Products Technology  
    Production Option  
    Finishing Option  
    Set-Up Technician Option  
    Design Software Option  
    CNC Machining Software Option

### ***Locations and Distance Education***

Northwest-Shoals maintains two campuses: the Shoals campus in Muscle Shoals, AL and the Phil Campbell campus in Phil Campbell, AL. Both campuses offer traditional classroom instruction applicable for Associate in Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Applied Science, certificates and diplomas with 100% of the coursework available for degree completion. Students may attend classes on either campus for completion of their appropriate degree.

In February, 2007, Northwest-Shoals received approval for a substantive change that allows the College to offer Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees online. Presently, most students taking distance education courses are also enrolled in traditional classroom courses.

### ***Accreditation***

Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Reaffirmed - 1999

ADN Nursing Program  
NLNAC (National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.)  
Last Visit – 2007

EMS Paramedic Program  
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educations Programs  
Last Visit - 2006

### ***Relationship to the U.S. Department of Education***

Northwest-Shoals Community College has no limitations, suspensions, or terminations by the U.S. Department of Education in regard to student financial aid or other financial aid programs during the previous three years.