



My NPU Connection

WASC Accreditation + Online MBA

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WASC/WSCUC), one of six prestigious regional accreditors that accredit public and private universities, has granted accreditation to NPU. Through its evaluation, WASC/WSCUC determined that NPU meets the Commission's Standards for Accreditation and Criteria for Review, and its conclusions are demonstrative of its faith in NPU's academic quality, integrity, sustainability, and capacity for continuous improvement.



Regional accreditation with WASC/WSCUC now subjects NPU, which has been continuously accredited since 1998, to the highest and most rigorous standards of academic excellence and allows it to join the ranks of other prominent universities with WASC/WSCUC accreditation, including Stanford University, Pepperdine University, University of Southern California, CalTech, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Santa Clara University.

"Achieving WSCUC accreditation is a tremendous accomplishment for the university," said President Peter Hsieh. "This achievement is the result of years of hard work by everyone at NPU. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and our Board of Directors; everyone contributed to this effort and should be proud to be part of this great achievement."

Beyond WASC/WSCUC accreditation, NPU took another step in its mission to make a top-notch and accessible education available to students throughout California and internationally by obtaining approval for its online MBA program from WASC/WSCUC. Now, those students can enjoy the same MBA opportunities at NPU that were only available to local students who could attend classes on campus. NPU's MBA offering is another recent step in solidifying it as an academic leader in the Bay Area as well as a career accelerator for those interested in entering the tech and business fields. NPU continues to advance its academic mission and find new ways to improve the educational experience of its students.

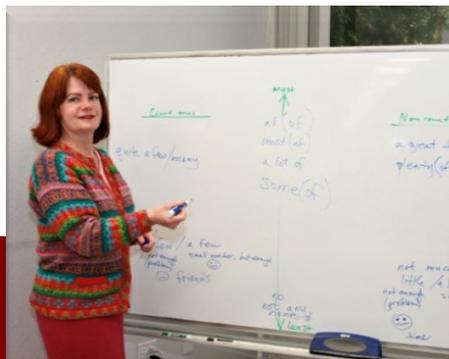
For NPU and its students, Hsieh said, "the future has never been brighter."

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A Pathway to Success

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM + CEA ACCREDITATION



Jennie O'Connor, ESL Administrator and English as a Second Language instructor with 17 years of experience, leads NPU's Intensive English Program (IEP). She specializes in English for Academic Purposes as well as TOEFL and Cambridge exam preparation.

Ms. O'Connor shares her insights into the IEP:

The Intensive English Program at NPU has seven levels of four courses: Listening and Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. Each level can be done in one eight-week session, but it isn't necessary to take all four courses of a level at the same time. We run a new session every eight weeks.

Each course focuses on different skills, with each level building upon skills learned in the previous level. Level 4 Writing focuses on essay structure and three types of essays. Students entering Level 4 Writing already know how to write paragraphs; when they leave, they can write comparison and contrast, summary-response, and argument essays. In Level 4 Listening and Speaking, students give eight-minute presentations and take notes from listening passages.

Anyone who is not a native speaker of English, even people who are fluent, can benefit from the IEP, because Levels 6 and 7 work on advanced language skills. Only true beginners are not able to participate in our IEP. Students must have basic knowledge of English to take Level 1. As the program grows, Levels 1 through 3 will serve people in the community who need to improve their English skills for work or everyday life. Levels 4 through 7 focus on academic skills and will prepare local and international students for study at a college or university as well as for the work world.



In December 2020, the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) granted accreditation to NPU's Intensive English Program for five years, which is the maximum length of time. CEA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an accreditor for postsecondary English language programs, and conducts accreditation activities in the U.S. and internationally.

CEA's review determined that NPU's Intensive English Program satisfies the requirements of CEA's Standards for English Language Programs and Institutions, and commended the IEP for its achievements.

Jennie O'Connor notes, "with CEA accreditation, NPU has started a new chapter in its long-term plans to expand its academic offerings, and can now position its students better than ever for success in education and in their careers."

Coupled with NPU's 2020 accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission, NPU's success in securing accreditation for the IEP from CEA demonstrates its ongoing commitment to academic excellence and to the growth of educational opportunities for its students.



"With CEA accreditation, NPU has started a new chapter in its long-term plans to expand its academic offerings and can now position its students better than ever for success in education and in their careers."

"8 Key Tech Trends in Post COVID-19 World"

Webinar Presented by Professor Ahmed Banafa

Last trimester, on February 23, 2021, Northwestern Polytechnic University hosted the "8 Key Tech Trends in Post COVID-19 World" Webinar presented by Professor Ahmed Banafa. Eighty attendees from the United States and other countries representing well-known universities and companies attended the webinar, including:

Northwestern Polytechnic University, San Jose State University, BEA System (United Kingdom), Laurentian University (Canada), Al Rajhi Bank (Largest Private Bank in Saudi Arabia), Raytheon, STC (Largest Telecom in The Middle East), Bank Indonesia, Intuit, University Djilali Liabes (Algeria), University of Massachusetts Lowell, Bionovation (Mexico), Deutsche Telecom (Germany), State Street Company (New York), AT&T, and lastly University of Calgary (Canda).

NPU's very own Professor Ahmed Banafa is a globally recognized expert in the Internet of Things, blockchain, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. He is the No.1 Tech Voice to Follow & Influencer on LinkedIn, an award-winning author and a keynote speaker. Leveraging his expertise, Professor Banafa covered 8 key tech trends in the post-COVID-19 world including:

Artificial intelligence (AI), Cloud computing, VR/AR, 5G Networks, Voice User Interface (VUI), Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, and lastly Blockchain Technology.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is the ultimate catalyst for digital transformation and will greatly accelerate several major trends that were already well underway before the pandemic," said Professor Ahmed Banafa. "The COVID-19 pandemic will have a lasting effect not only on our economy, but on how we go about our daily lives, and things are not likely to return to pre-pandemic norms. While this pandemic has forced many businesses to reduce or suspend operations, affecting their bottom line, it has helped to accelerate the development of several emerging technologies. This is especially true for innovations that reduce human-to-human contact, automate processes, and increase productivity amid social distancing."



Webinar
**8 Key Tech Trends
in Post COVID-19
World**



Prof. Ahmed Banafa
No.1 Tech Voice to Follow &
Influencer on LinkedIn,
Award Winning Author,
Expert: IoT- Blockchain-
Cybersecurity, & Keynote
Speaker



Articulation Agreements

The Path to Earning Your Bachelor's Degree Is Easier Than You May Think

Monica Sinha, Director of Admissions, has led NPU in establishing educational partnerships with many community colleges over the past few months. These articulation and transfer agreements allow students to transfer coursework they have completed and carry over those credits to undergraduate programs at NPU. Through this process, a new world of educational opportunities is now open to our mutual students.

Ms. Sinha states, "NPU is excited to share that articulation and transfer agreements with several California Community Colleges have been established in the past few months."

Students from the following colleges can transfer their credits seamlessly and transition to a bachelor's degree with ease:

- Bakersfield College
- Cerro Coso College
- Chabot College
- College of San Mateo
- Evergreen Valley College
- Laney College
- Las Positas College
- Madera Community College
- Merritt College
- Ohlone College
- San Jose City College
- Skyline College
- West Valley College

NPU is excited to be working with the community colleges listed above, and we are committed to providing superior educational resources and services for students transferring over!

Check out the courses that have been mapped for transfer on the [Articulation & Transfer Agreement](#) webpage.



Aditya Jagdishchandra Tanna
Master of Science in
Computer Science 2016
iOS Engineer
Apple


NPU Spotlight: Aditya Tanna

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE 2016

Aditya, a graduate of Northwestern Polytechnic University, notes that NPU "opened its doors and led [him] to where [he is] now." Today, Aditya is an iOS Engineer at Apple and working on making Apple products even more impactful for their users.

Aditya's profound interest in application development was greatly influenced by the IT professionals in his family. After earning a bachelor's degree in Computer Science in India, Aditya pursued an advanced degree in the United States. He has always believed that higher education provides more opportunities and advantages in this competitive world: "Expanding one's skills and knowledge are important to succeed. We should always find ways to flourish in life."

Based on recommendations from his friends, Aditya chose to pursue an advanced degree at NPU. Aditya's academic journey with NPU was truly remarkable, but studying and living abroad, while exciting, was certainly not easy: "Being an international student required me to cope with the anxiety of moving into a new place. I had to be brave to face uncertainty." Furthermore, pursuing a higher education meant being away from his fiancée. Despite these difficulties, Aditya rose to the challenge.

Aditya drew inspiration from Steve Jobs, who influenced him to "stay hungry." He also drew inspiration from his family, watching his own uncle secure a job at Oracle as a database administrator and working there for twenty years. Such inspiring individuals motivated Aditya to stay the course and to make the most of his time at NPU.

That perseverance paid off, as he credits his experience at NPU for giving him real-life insight on "how working in an industry is beneficial in preparing for opportunities." That insight allowed Aditya to navigate his professional journey successfully in the United States.

Aditya's first position was via an internship with a start-up. He recalls, "I had low pay, but I gained much knowledge, especially about working with a small team. It was a wonderful experience." He then moved to Los Angeles and worked for AT&T as a Mobile Application Developer. Due to the limited duration of his OPT period, events didn't quite occur as planned there, but, thanks to his patience and determination, a new opportunity soon emerged, and Aditya was soon able to answer another question that he had considered earlier in his career: "What is it like to work at Apple?"

In 2019, he started working with Apple as a Consultant and was eventually offered a full-time position. When asked, "What are the accomplishments that make you feel proud and successful?" Aditya responded, "I made it to Apple! I never thought that the dream I had of working at Apple would come true." He adds, "I always find new things to learn, and I'm enjoying the perks, of course."

Success means something different to each person, but to Aditya it means: "As long as you achieve your goal, you can fulfill your own needs and provide for your family, and importantly, you're happy, that, to me, is success."

In offering advice to those hoping to land a job, he stresses the importance of networking for landing a job and taking advantage of opportunities. During his time at NPU, Aditya served as a Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor, in which he taught many students: "It was an excellent opportunity to network and showcase my skills. I was able to present myself in front of a big crowd." He also encourages Computer Science students, particularly software developers, to practice data structures and algorithms. These are his tips for an interview: "Be vocal rather than making employers guess your abilities, and be honest about your credentials."

Aditya's own future remains bright. His fiancée's visa ultimately worked out, and they are now married and both are IT professionals. As for his own plans, Aditya "would love to come up with something that would be life-changing and meaningful to society," and he sees himself "embracing the role of a responsible husband and father to [his] family."

Tips For Landing a Job:

Practice data algorithms and data structures. Ask for help and don't be afraid to ask someone in your network.

"Expanding one's skills and knowledge are important to succeed. We should always find ways to flourish in life."

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

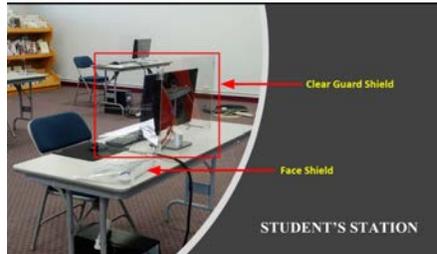
CREATED BY NPU STAFF
FOR HYBRID COURSES

The amazing and dedicated staff at Northwestern Polytechnic University has constructed a plan to help ensure the safety of its students, faculty, and staff with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. NPU is emphasizing remote learning for its students and faculty and remote working options for its staff.

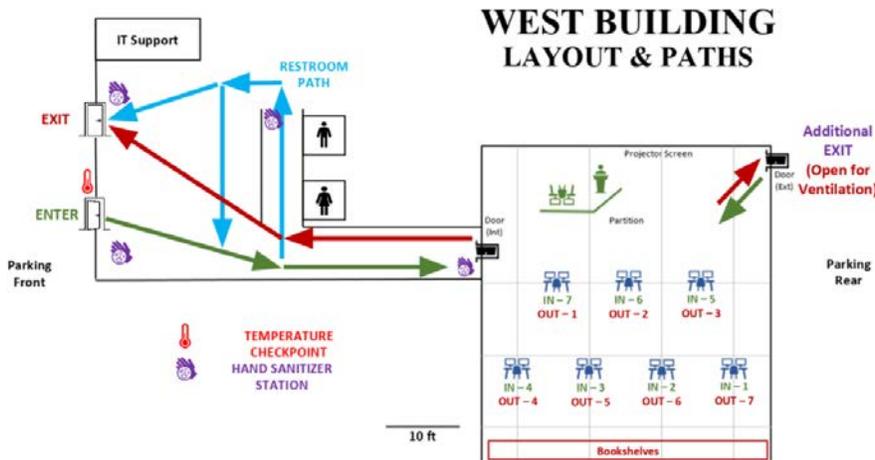
For certain students, certain lab classes must still be taken in-person. To that end, NPU has worked to develop safety protocols to protect its students and faculty during class such as changing classroom layouts to reduce the risk of viral transmission.

Instructions have been posted outside the classroom building throughout the trimester to make clear what steps are necessary prior to entering the classroom.

Throughout the trimester students attending in-person lab courses have observed the following protocols.



When arriving at an in-person lab class, faculty and students are required to undergo a temperature reading outside the classroom building to ensure instructors and students do not have a fever. If a fever is detected, then they are instructed to leave campus and to begin self-isolation procedures. To minimize contact and to help ensure social distancing, designated routes of travel are identified, including routes of travel to the classroom and restrooms. In classrooms, desks and students have been spaced to ensure that social distancing requirements are being met. Masks are mandatory and are provided as well as face shields in case students would like extra protection. Classrooms are equipped with covers and panels that separate desks and the students from the faculty. After the class is finished, a sanitation crew will arrive to disinfect and sanitize the area in anticipation of the next class. Over this trimester, our staff members were there to observe, assist, and ensure that safety protocols were followed because the top priority has been to ensure the safety and health of our students and faculty.



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