

NWCCU PROFILE

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is one of [six regional organizations](#) recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit postsecondary institutions within the United States. It is [incorporated](#) as a legally established, private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation for the expressed purpose of accrediting higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Membership and organization of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is set forth in its [Bylaws](#).

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities replaces the Commission on Colleges and Universities that was originally part of the Northwest Association of Schools and of Colleges and Universities, a voluntary, nongovernmental organization for the improvement of educational institutions founded in 1917. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and its predecessors have been listed since 1952 by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for institutions offering programs of at least one academic year in length at the postsecondary level. The Commission's recognition was most recently reaffirmed by the Department in 2010.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is an independent, non-profit membership organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the regional authority on educational quality and institutional effectiveness of higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. It fulfills its mission by establishing accreditation criteria and evaluation procedures by which institutions are reviewed.

The Commission oversees regional accreditation for 162 institutions. Its decision-making body consists of up to twenty-six Commissioners who represent the public and the diversity of higher education institutions within the Northwest region.

The mission of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is to assure educational quality, enhance institutional effectiveness, and foster continuous improvement of colleges and universities in the Northwest region through analytical institutional self-assessment and critical peer review based upon [evaluation criteria](#) that are objectively and equitably applied to [institutions](#) with diverse missions, characteristics, and cultures.