

## NWCCU POLICIES | ACCREDITATION FOR SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS

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When several institutions are operationally separate units governed by a single board with central system administration or a system of separate units governed by related entities, the purposes of accreditation may be better served by close coordination between the institution, the system's central administration, the related entities, and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The guidelines that follow are designed to facilitate a clear understanding of institutional purposes and accomplishments, while preserving integrity and autonomy. This policy applies to both public and private institutions.

### INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION TO THE EVALUATION TEAM

The institutional self-study report and presentation to the NWCCU evaluation team may include a section prepared by the system administration that describes system mission, objectives, policies, and operations, and also provides an analysis of educational outcomes and effectiveness. Alternatively, this information may be provided in a separate system-wide policy and data portfolio.

The institutional presentation may also include:

- A description of the governing board.
- A description of decision making process by the institution and related entities.
- A description of the procedures for development and approval of new academic programs and major system policies.
- A description of the system's academic program review process.
- An outline of the process to set budgets.
- An explanation of relationships with and authority of agencies external to the system.
- An explanation of relationships with and delegation of authority between the system administration and the institutions.
- Identification of system-wide groups, their organization and function. Such groups may include chief institutional administrators, as well as groups representing faculty, students, and alumni.
- An appraisal of the effectiveness of the system in meeting its goals.
- A forecast of major programmatic, enrollment, and capital trends for the system in the next five or ten years.

### INSTITUTIONAL APPRAISAL

The institution includes an appraisal of its identity as a system member and the effect of system policies on the achievement of institutional purposes.

### REVIEW TEAMS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYSTEM OFFICE

In order for a evaluation team to have a clear understanding of the system and its relationships that affect the institution being reviewed, the following are recommended:

- An invitation to the team chair to visit the central office to meet system officers to become familiar with the system's operations.
- When a visit to the central office is not possible, the team chair may speak to system officers by telephone.
- A copy of the final report and Commission action letter shall be sent by the institution to the President or CEO of the system and governing board.

Adopted June, 2019