

NWCCU POLICIES | APPLICATION FOR NWCCU ACCREDITATION FROM AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY ANOTHER ACCREDITOR

An institution accredited by another commission may apply for accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) for good cause and with compelling justification. This application process applies only to institutions that seek to change accreditation from one of the other accrediting commissions within the United States. A successful applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The applicant institution must be in full compliance with its existing accreditor and not under any form of private or public sanction at the time of its application.
2. Absent written consent by NWCCU, and except as necessitated by the proposed change, the institution may not initiate a change of a substantive nature, during the application process.
3. The applicant institution must be located in and chartered or incorporated within the jurisdiction of NWCCU. If the institution is part of a system covering more than one accrediting region, the locus of administrative control must be within the geographic jurisdiction of NWCCU.
4. All management agreements, option agreements, or other agreements related to the management and control of the institution must be submitted at the time of the application.

PROCESS FOR CHANGING REGIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSIONS

1. The institution must submit a letter of application for accreditation to the President of NWCCU. The letter must provide a compelling rationale and justification for why NWCCU accreditation is sought and certify the consent to change by the existing accreditor or explain why consent is withheld.
2. The institution must submit documents that demonstrate current compliance with NWCCU Eligibility Requirements and Standards.
3. The applicant institution must submit the most recent visiting committee report(s) and action letter(s) from its existing accreditor, including the most recent comprehensive review and any special or focused report(s) and action(s). The institution must also submit report(s) from any review that occurred within the last five years of the application.
4. NWCCU may request additional information.
5. NWCCU staff will review the application and supporting documents, prepare an analysis and submit the analysis to the institution. The institution may respond to the analysis of NWCCU within thirty (30) days of receipt. NWCCU staff may revise its analysis upon review of the institution's response.
6. The final analysis of NWCCU's staff and the applicant institution's response, if any, will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the NWCCU Board of Commissioners. The institution is invited to send a representative(s) to appear before the Board of Commissioners when the application for NWCCU accreditation is considered.
7. The NWCCU Board of Commissioners may accept the application, defer action on the application pending receipt of additional information, or reject the application. There is no provision for candidacy in the process of changing accreditors. The decision of the Board of Commissioners will be delivered to the institution within thirty (30) days of the meeting of

the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the decision will be delivered to the applicant institution's former accreditor.

8. The applicant institution that seeks a change of accreditors remains accredited under its existing accreditor until a final decision is made by NWCCU.
9. If NWCCU approves the change of accreditation, the newly-accredited institution will be required to have its accreditation reaffirmed seven years after the acceptance of membership and every seven years thereafter.
10. The date of the change of accreditation will be set by NWCCU. Annual Commission dues will be prorated from that date.
11. An institution may withdraw its application at any time during the review process. Upon doing so, NWCCU will notify the applicant institution's existing accreditor.
12. All final decisions regarding the accreditation status of an applicant institution are made by the NWCCU Board of Commissioners. Denial of the change of accreditation is not an appealable action.
13. If an applicant institution is denied change of accreditation, the institution may resubmit an application after three years.

Adopted June, 2019