

NWCCU POLICIES | REQUESTS FOR WAIVER

In furtherance of its mission, and in recognition of evolving ways of designing and delivering higher education, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) may consider an institution's request for a waiver to an NWCCU Standard for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirement, or Policy ("Waiver Request"). The Waiver Request must be signed by the institution and served upon NWCCU personally, by mail, or electronically. The Waiver Request must provide a statement of facts supported by evidence that demonstrates the need for a waiver, the outcome desired and expected by implementation of the waiver, corroborative information that student learning and outcomes will not be negatively impacted, and institutional integrity will not be compromised. Institutions making a Waiver Request must be in good standing with respect to program reviews, policies related to federal compliance, financial sustainability, and measures of student learning outcomes. A Waiver Request may be granted by NWCCU for good cause shown.

PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF A WAIVER REQUEST

Upon receipt of a Waiver Request, the NWCCU will initiate the following process of review:

- Within 10 business days, the NWCCU staff will acknowledge receipt of the Waiver Request.
- The NWCCU staff shall review the Waiver Request and any additional information furnished by the institution. The NWCCU staff may consider information in addition to matters submitted by the institution, in which case, the institution will be given the opportunity to comment on the same.
- Within 30 days, the NWCCU President shall decide whether the Waiver Request and supporting evidence demonstrates that the institution may have a good cause need for a waiver of a Standard of Accreditation, Eligibility Requirement, or Policy.
- If the NWCCU President determines that the institution has not made the requisite good cause showing, the institution will be notified in writing and the matter will be closed. If, however, the NWCCU President determines that the institution has demonstrated good cause to support the Waiver Request, the institution will receive written notice that the matter has been referred to the Board of Commissioners.
- The Board of Commissioners has discretion to request additional information from the institution. The Board of Commissioners also has discretion to consider information in addition to matters submitted by the institution and the NWCCU staff.
- Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Commissioners shall complete its review and make a decision on whether there is good cause to support the Waiver Request within 120 days of the date the matter is referred by the NWCCU staff to the Board of Commissioners.
- The institution shall receive written notice of the decision of the Board of Commissioners within five days of the date of the decision.

Adopted June, 2019