

Press Release

Subject: NOTICE: NWCCU to Undertake Virtual Evaluation Fall Visits in Response To COVID-19

Send From: info@nwccu.org

Send To: Commission, Staff, Key Roles

Send on: 7/20/20

Good afternoon:

Given the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the recommendations of regional, state, and county health agencies, NWCCU has cancelled all in-person accreditation evaluation campus visit travel for Fall 2020 in favor of digital, online alternatives. We will be utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform for the evaluation meetings and discussions between the Evaluation Teams and institutional representatives.

Following the Spring 2020 virtual evaluation visits, staff have compiled resources and trainings on the basics of hosting online meetings, moderating virtual discussion groups, and scheduling multiple days of video interviews, to be available for the review teams and institutional Accreditation Liaison Officers. Recognizing the challenges resulting from the national emergency due to COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Education has [extended its approval of virtual accreditation evaluation visits through the end of the year.](#)

The NWCCU Board of Commissioners met June 24-26, 2020 and, among the actions taken during the June meeting, the following resolution and temporary policy were approved.

- [NWCCU Resolution Regarding Certain Operations During Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19](#)
- [NWCCU Temporary Policy on Virtual Accreditation Evaluation Visits](#)

Later this summer we will be following up with further information on processes for notifying NWCCU of remote teaching, changes in hybrid model implementation plans, and reporting details.

We appreciate your keeping us aware of the situation on your campuses and in your communities. Our hope is for the NWCCU member community to stay safe and healthy during this time. Thank you for your support and dedication to accreditation standards in the Northwest region.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

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