Accreditation Overview

November 2016
My dental checkup is tomorrow?
American flossing habits

Only 4 in 10 Americans floss at least once a day

Flossing Survey

- 27% lie to their dentist about how often they floss
- 36% would prefer to do an unpleasant task rather than floss
  - clean a toilet (14%)
  - sit in gridlock traffic for an hour (9%)
  - do their taxes (9%)
  - listen to small children crying on a plane (9%)

Harris Poll on behalf of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) among 2,021 U.S. adults and among the top 10 U.S. markets (2015).
The accreditors are coming next year!
Time to floss (prepare) if you haven’t been already!
What is accreditation?

• Accreditation recognizes educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public

• Importance for our students (and faculty/staff):
  • Ease of transferring credits
  • Federal financial aid
  • Quality threshold of the institution
What is accreditation?

• Voluntary, non-governmental, self-regulatory process of quality assurance and institutional improvement

• Regional accrediting bodies are recognized by US Dept. of Education
  • Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada)
  • Regional authority on educational quality and institutional effectiveness
What does NWCCU require?

- Compliance with NWCCU Policies (ongoing)
  - Substantive change (new programs, new locations, new emphases, deleted programs, new distance education delivered programs, contractual relationships, etc.)
  - Credit hours
  - Annual reports
  - Distance education
  - Institutional advertising/student recruitment
  - Student complaints
  - Record retention
  - Competency-based education
  - Transfer/award of academic credit
  - Contractual relationships
What does NWCCU require?

• Seven-year accreditation cycle
  • Eligibility Requirements
  • Selected policies
  • Previous Commission recommendations
• Five Standards of Accreditation
  • Articulate the quality and effectiveness expected
  • Provide a framework for continuous improvement
  • Indicators by which institutions are evaluated by peers
  • Guide institution in process of self-reflection blending analysis and synthesis
Seven Year Accreditation Cycle

- Year One Self-Evaluation Report
  - Standard One and Eligibility Requirements 2 & 3
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation
  - Ascertain institution’s readiness to provide evidence of mission fulfillment and sustainability; assist in determining if process for outcomes assessment will lead to successful Year Seven evaluation
  - Self-Evaluation Report
  - Peer Evaluation Visit (small team)

- Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report and Peer Evaluation Visit
  - Comprehensive—all standards and eligibility requirements

Fall 2017—Report due mid-September; Visit in October
NWCCU Standards

- Standard One: Mission and Core Themes
  - In an examination of its purpose, characteristics, and expectations, the institution defines the parameters for mission fulfillment.
  - The institution identifies an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment.

- Elements of the Standard
  - Mission
  - Core Themes
Core Themes

"Collectively, the core themes represent the institution’s interpretation of its mission and translation of that interpretation into practice." (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities)

Student Success

UVU supports students in achieving their educational, professional, and personal goals.

Engaged

UVU engages its communities in mutually beneficial collaboration and emphasizes engaged learning.

Serious

UVU fosters a culture of academic rigor and professional excellence.

Inclusive

UVU provides opportunity for individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives and meets regional educational needs.
• Standard Two: Resources and Capacity
  • The institution demonstrates the potential to fulfill its mission, accomplish its core theme objectives, and achieve the intended outcomes of its programs and services, wherever offered and however delivered.

• Elements of the Standard
  • Governance
  • Human Resources
  • Education Resources
  • Student Support Resources
  • Library and Information Resources
  • Financial Resources
  • Physical and Technological Infrastructure
NWCCU Standards

• Standard Three: Planning and Implementation
  • The institution engages in ongoing, participatory planning that provides direction for the institution and leads to the achievement of the intended outcomes.

• Elements of the Standard
  • Institutional Planning
  • Core Theme Planning
NWCCU Standards

• Standard Four: Effectiveness and Improvement
  • The institution regularly and systematically collects data related to clearly defined indicators of achievement, analyzes those data, and formulates evidence-based evaluations of the achievement of core theme objectives.

• Elements of the Standard
  • Assessment—institutional, programs/services, student learning
  • Improvement
**Student Success: Objective One**

UVU supports students' preparation and achievement of academic success at the University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator A:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention rates.</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Graph" /> <img src="image2.png" alt="Graph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator B:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rates.</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Graph" /> <img src="image4.png" alt="Graph" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NWCCU Standards

• Standard Five: Mission Fulfillment, Adaptation, and Sustainability
  • The institution develops and publishes evidence-based evaluations regarding the extent to which it is fulfilling its mission, now and into the future.

• Elements of the Standard
  • Mission Fulfillment
  • Adaptation and Sustainability
Future emphasis!

The Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC):

Will launch a nationwide effort to increase its focus on **graduation rates** and will pay increased attention to **loan default and loan repayment rates**.
Previous recommendations

#1 The committee recommends that Utah Valley University complete its work on a strategic plan for managing growth so it is clear that additional resources must accompany additional growth.

#2 The committee recognizes the progress the institution has made in educational assessment, however, significant work remains. Student learning outcomes for some programs are incomplete, the use of assessment data beyond the program level is limited, and few programs provide evidence that assessment data influences program design or delivery. …

#3 … The evaluation committee recommends that UVU complete a reevaluation of faculty workload policy. …
Preparation for the Visit

• Ensure learning outcomes are current, submitted, and published
• Compile evidence of use of your assessment results
• Ensure that you have sufficient oversight of programs “wherever offered and however delivered”
• Demonstrate use of your strategic plans
• Contribute, as requested, to content of the Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report
• Take advantage of opportunities to review drafts of the Year Seven Self Evaluation Report
The Visit

• Team of peers (7 to 9 people) from NWCCU, non-Utah institutions

• Three days in October 2017

• You may be contacted individually or asked to attend a forum
  • Please attend if invited
  • Be honest
  • Keep comments pertinent to scope of the visit and NWCCU standards

• You may be asked for a sample syllabus, exam, assessment rubric, etc.
Principles of accreditation preparation

- Authenticity (dance as if no one was watching)
- Ongoing habit of periodic reviews and updates vs. Herculean, episodic self-study efforts
Questions?

Accreditation