



Workplace News

NWCCU 2020 Standards: Standard 1.B. - Improving Institutional Effectiveness

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Utah Valley University (UVU) is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and must comply with NWCCU Standards, Eligibility Requirements, and Policies. The university is proud to have achieved and maintained institutional accreditation through NWCCU since 1969.

Accreditation is required to secure federal funding and demonstrates the university's commitment to academic excellence and the continuous enhancement of institutional effectiveness. The NWCCU's rigorous standards, grounded in data and evidence, guide UVU's efforts to fulfill its mission and elevate student learning and achievement within an inclusive governance framework that prioritizes comprehensive planning and decision-making.

Under the leadership of Associate Provost Dr. Laurie Sharp and her team in Academic Programs and Assessment, UVU is meticulously preparing for its seven-year comprehensive evaluation of the university's institutional effectiveness. To raise institutional awareness and prepare the university community for this evaluation, we provide a series of accreditation articles explaining standards and sub-standards. Each article summarizes the university's compliance and identifies areas for improvement from the self-study process.

Standard 1.B. - Improving Institutional Effectiveness

Standard 1.B. is composed of four sub-standards, each designed to enhance institutional effectiveness. Sub-standards 1.B.1 through 1.B.4 direct institutions of higher education to maintain continuous assessment of institutional effectiveness, including student learning and support services, through an ongoing evaluation and planning process. Sub-standards of 1.B. set clear goals and indicators for mission fulfillment, involve stakeholders in planning, and allocate resources. Based on internal and external trends, institutions of higher education use a governance system to guide strategic decisions, mission reviews, and program outcomes to increase effectiveness.

UVU's approach to institutional effectiveness aligns closely with Vision 2030, employing a comprehensive system that integrates various assessments and planning processes. The university utilizes the Balanced Scorecard for performance measures, including administrative unit evaluations, program reviews, and employee performance assessments. Continuous assessment of student learning is emphasized, facilitated by faculty-led assessments and data analytics tools. UVU's Vision 2030 emphasizes student success and accessibility, with specific goals like improving recruitment and fostering community collaboration. The university compares itself to peer institutions for insights and transparency, focusing on similar missions and demographics to drive continuous improvement.

UVU's planning processes, including the Integrated Institutional Effectiveness Plan and Vision 2030, tie into the university's assessment and resource allocation processes. This journey is iterative, inclusive, and ongoing involving diverse work groups and transparent communication channels for input. The Planning, Budgeting, and Assessment (PBA) process aligns resource allocation with strategic goals, responding dynamically to stakeholder feedback and evolving needs. Internal and external scanning methods such as town hall meetings, audits, and engagement with industry advisory boards and alliances with external partners, ensure ongoing evaluation of institutional effectiveness and compliance. Governance systems guide the integration of findings into decision-making processes at all levels, reflecting UVU's commitment to strategic planning and continuous improvement.

The year 7 evaluation report and supportive evidence for this standard may be accessed via the following links:

www.uvu.edu/accreditation-academic-assessment/accreditation/current

www.uvu.edu/president/mission

www.uvu.edu/vision2030/

www.uvu.edu/news/2024/02/2024_02_28_nwccu

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