Campus Report on Upcoming
Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities
Comprehensive Evaluation and Site Visit

Fall 2010

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Overview

- October 2008, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) granted UVU candidacy at the master’s degree level
  - Retained accreditation at associate and baccalaureate degree levels
- NWCCU requires comprehensive evaluation with site visit the Fall after 1st master’s degree cohort graduates
Overview

• Comprehensive evaluation self-study describes the university at all degree levels
• NWCCU outlines nine standards for evaluation
• Departments have conducted/updated unit self-studies
Overview

- Self-study process involved many faculty, staff, and students across campus

- Highlights strengths, accomplishments, and challenges with recommendations for improvement

- Responds to recommendations from 2005 visit

- Review self-study at [www.uvu.edu/accreditation](http://www.uvu.edu/accreditation)

Thank you!
Overview

• Site visit November 3-5, 2010
  – Chair—Dr. Jonathan N. Lawson, Idaho State Univ.
  – Team—10 peers within the NWCCU region
    • Evaluate Academics (including individual schools/colleges)
    • Evaluate Student Affairs, Finance, Facilities, Library, IT and administration/governance

• Anticipate team will engage in
  – Some individual interviews
  – Some general sessions
    • Faculty
    • Students
    • Staff
Mission Focused

The evaluation proceeds from the institution’s own definition of its mission and goals

– Utah Valley University is a teaching institution which provides opportunity, promotes student success, and meets regional educational needs. UVU builds on a foundation of substantive scholarly and creative work to foster engaged learning. The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as life-long learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community.
Core Themes

• 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.

• Inclusive
  – UVU provides opportunity for individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives and meets regional educational needs.

• Serious
  – UVU fosters a culture of academic rigor and professional excellence.
Standards and Policies

• Standard 1—Institutional Mission and Goals, Planning and Effectiveness
  – Mission and Goals
  – Planning and Effectiveness
Standards and Policies

• Standard 2—Educational Program and Its Effectiveness
  – General Requirements
  – Educational Program Planning and Assessment
  – Undergraduate Program
  – Graduate Program
Standards and Policies

• Standard 2 (Cont’d) — Educational Program and Its Effectiveness
  – Graduate Faculty and Related Resources
  – Graduate Records and Academic Credit
  – Continuing Education and Special Learning Activities
  – Non-credit Programs and Courses
Standards and Policies

• Standard 2 – NWCCU Policies
  – General Education/Related Instruction Requirements
  – Educational Assessment
  – Credit for Prior Experiential Learning
  – Study Abroad Programs
  – Transfer and Award of Academic Credit
  – Distance Delivery of Courses, Certificate, and Degree Programs
Standards and Policies

• Standard 3—Students
  – Purpose and Organization
  – General Responsibilities
  – Academic Credit and Records
  – Student Services
  – Intercollegiate Athletics

• NWCCU Policy
  – Institutional Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status
Standards and Policies

• Standard 4—Faculty
  – Faculty Selection, Evaluation, Roles, Welfare, and Development
  – Scholarship, Research, and Artistic Creation

• NWCCU Policy
  – Faculty Evaluation
Standards and Policies

• Standard 5—Library and Information Resources
  – Purpose and Scope
  – Information Resources and Services
  – Facilities and Access
  – Personnel and Management
  – Planning and Evaluation
Standards and Policies

• Standard 6--Governance and Administration
  – Governance System
  – Governing Board
  – Leadership and Management
  – Faculty Role in Governance
  – Student Role in Governance

• NWCCU Policy
  – Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination
Standards and Policies

• Standard 7—Finance
  – Financial Planning
  – Adequacy of Financial Resources
  – Financial Management
  – Fundraising and Development
Standards and Policies

• Standard 8 — Physical Resources
  – Instructional and Support Facilities
  – Equipment and Materials
  – Physical Resources Planning

• Standard 9 — Institutional Integrity and NWCCU Policy
Evaluation and Self-Study

• Summary
  – Comprehensive
    • At all levels
  – Broad
    • Educational programs to finance and facilities
  – Mission Focused
  – NWCCU Standards and Policy Driven
Summary

• Self-study evaluation and team visit provide opportunity for UVU to
  – recognize successes
  – acknowledge challenges
  – identify actions for improvement

• Review self-study at www.uvu.edu/accreditation

• Receive Executive Summary shortly
Summary

• Since 2005 accreditation, UVU achievements include
  – Transition to University status including adoption of new mission statement
  – Strategic planning and resource allocation
  – Growth (facilities, students, faculty/staff)
  – Student Services (programming, facilities, staff)
  – Policy Development
  – Integration (Core Themes/Objectives)
Summary

• Identified areas for continuing improvement
  – State tax fund support
  – Growth (strategic plan for managing growth)
  – Space
  – Culture of assessment
  – Fundraising and alumni engagement
What Can You Do?

• Review the executive summary (forthcoming), university’s self-study, and your department’s self-study

• Attend open meetings with the site visit team

• Be honest
  – Recognize our limitations with an honest appraisal
  – Recognize our successes in the same manner

• Remember the team’s role
If you were an accreditor?

• What 1 or 2 commendations would you give the university?

• What 1 or 2 recommendations would you give the university?