NWCCU Resources for Vice President Orientation on Accreditation

Standards, Eligibility Requirements, and NWCCU Policies

NWCCU Standards for Accreditation: The Standards that NWCCU Member Institutions agree to meet and address to secure and keep institutional accreditation with NWCCU.

NWCCU Eligibility Requirements: Requirements institutions must meet for applicant, candidate, and member institution status.

NWCCU Policies: Policies that establish and guide Commission and Institutional responsibilities and actions.

Select Policies of Note

Contracts for Education-Related Services Policy: Describes types of education-related contracts by institution and partner type and associated requirements and restrictions.

Credit Hour Policy: Requires institutions to have their own credit hour policy, review its application, and abide by commonly accepted thresholds for credit hours (or document and receive approval for other units of credit).

Distance Education Policy: Establishes requirements for institutions offering programs through distance education, including the requirements for Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI).

Receipt of Unsolicited Information Policy: Documents NWCCU actions when NWCCU receives information regarding an institution that may impact its accreditation, including information from other accreditors.

Record of Student Complaints Policy: Documents requirements for institutions to track and maintain a record of student complaints received.

Substantive Change Policy: Documents and identifies the types of changes an institution must report and receive approval for prior to implementation. Includes language that the institution must wait for approval of the substantive change before advertising the change and recruiting students.

Transfer and Award of Academic Credit Policy: Describes transfer actions and transparency required of institutions for student transfer and award of credit. This is also the policy with information regarding dual enrollment and dual credit.

Institutional Resources

[NWCCU Accreditation Handbook](#): Describes the accreditation process and actions, reports, and timelines in detail.

[Substantive Change Manual](#): Describes procedures for all types of required substantive changes.

[Institutional Forms and Guidelines](#): A repository of information for each member institution, including institution type, accreditation status, sanctions, last visit date, and next report date.

[Peer Institutions and Benchmarking FAQ](#): Guidelines for the selection of regional and national peers and associated benchmarking practices as identified in NWCCU Standards.

[Beacon Article *Peer Comparators and Student Success*](#): An introductory article to the FAQ document.

[PRFR Template](#): The list of policies and procedures required by each criteria in Standard 2 and reviewed as part of the Year 6 Policies, Regulation, and Finances Review process.

[Evaluator Forms and Guidelines](#): A repository of resources for peer evaluators. It is useful for institutions to review this as they prepare for their own visits and reports.

[NWCCU Distance Education Policy Verification Notice](#): A memo sent to institutions regarding a required addendum to Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness reports for institutions authorized to offer distance education.

[Beacon Article *Demystifying NWCCU's Assessment Standards*](#): An article breaking down the components of Standards 1.C.5, 1.C.6, and 1.C.7.