



NWCCU

NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

NWCCU Standards and Processes for Student Services

WSSSC Meeting – February 6, 2025

ED HARRI

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

NWCCU

Accreditation experience

What is your experience with institutional accreditation? What is your role at your college?



Goals

1. Overview of NWCCU's accreditation standards and report cycles
2. Highlight significant standards for student services
3. Provide strategies and best practices for responding to these standards



About NWCCU

NWCCU Vision

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities aspires to be the premier accreditation agency whose member institutions foster access, belonging, and success for every student.

NWCCU Mission

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredits institutions of higher education by applying data- and evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote achievement and success for all students.

About NWCCU

NWCCU Institutions

Currently accredit 160 institutions located in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, and British Columbia.

Board of Commissioners

20-26 member Board includes representatives from member institutions, out-of-region institutions, and public members. Typically two SBCTC representatives.

NWCCU Standards

Standard One: Student success, and institutional mission and effectiveness

- Mission fulfillment
- Planning
- Student learning
- Student achievement data



NWCCU Standards

Standard Two: Governance, resources, and capacity

- Governance
- Academic Freedom
- Policies and Procedures
- Student services
- Finances
- Human Resources
- Library resources
- Physical and Technology Resources



Reporting Cycle

| Report Type | Focus |
|---|---|
| Annual report | Disaggregated data Student achievement Financial data Peer institutions |
| Mid-Cycle Report (Year 3) | Planning Assessment Data collection and analysis |
| Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) (Year 6) | Standard Two Financial performance Policies and procedures |
| Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) (Year 7) | Focus on Standard One (Planning, assessment, data, mission and effectiveness) PRFR Findings (Standard Two) Comprehensive evaluation |

Most Common Recommendation Standards

1.B.1, 1.B.3: Institutional planning and effectiveness

1.C.5, 1.C.6, 1.C.7: Assessment (learning outcomes and programmatic assessment)

1.D.2, 1.D.3: Student achievement data and peer comparators

2.A.4: Institutional governance and decision-making

2.E.1, 2.E.2, 2.E.3: Institutional audits and finances

2.G.6: Evaluation of effectiveness of advising

Student Services Standards

Planning and assessment

1.B.1 Institutional Planning

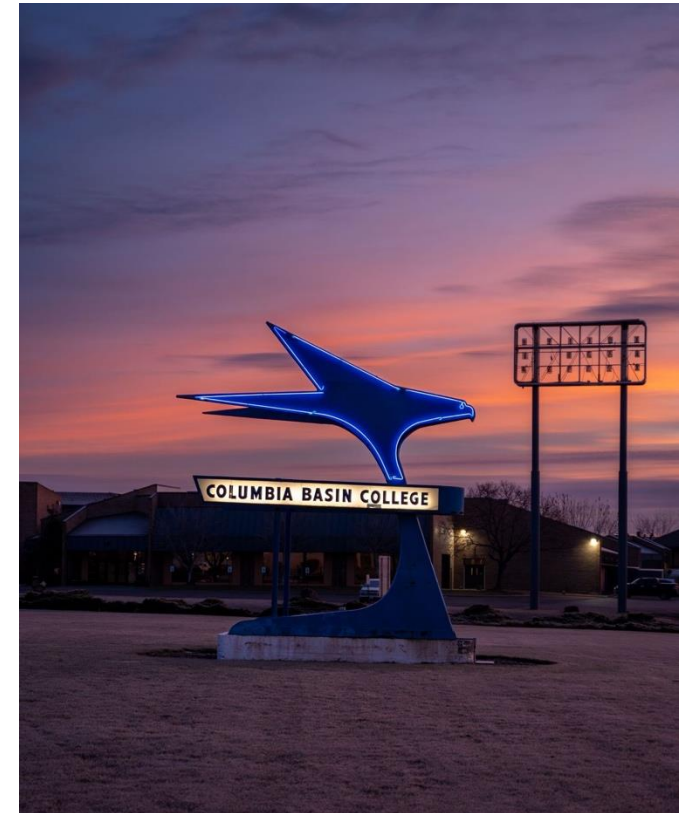
1.C.7 Use of programmatic
assessment results



Student Services Standards

Student Rights and Responsibilities

2.C.2 Student rights and responsibilities, complaints and grievances



Student Services Standards

Student services and financial aid

2.G.1 Programs and services to support learning and success

2.G.4, 2.G.5 Financial aid



Student Services Standards

Advising

2.G.6 Effective advising system that is evaluated systematically and provides accurate information to students



Student Services Standards

Distance Learning and Identity Verification

2.G.7 Identity verification



What do we see in effective planning and assessment efforts?

1. Alignment with institutional planning efforts
2. Data-informed
3. Connected to resource allocation
4. Simple and regular



What do we see in effective advising evaluation approaches?

1. Alignment with other review processes
2. Review of data including student success indicators and survey data
3. Plans for improvement include professional development and training
4. Consistency



Sharing your advising evaluation

Mid-Cycle (year 3): Include as an example of programmatic assessment to receive formative feedback

PRFR (Year 6): Describe your advising model, include exhibits for your assessment

EIE (Year 7): Be prepared to share lessons learned from your review of advising

- How does your assessment inform training and professional development?
- What changes have you made as a result of your assessment?
- What changes are you assessing, and how?

How are institutions responding to student identity verification requirements?

1. Standard security practices (unique IDs, multi-factor authentication)
2. Identity verification during proctored exams and assignments
3. Notification of any distance education or identity verification fees



Questions?
