

NWCCU Accreditation Update

March 21, 2019

Board of Trustees – Academic Quality & Student Success Committee

Oregon **TECH**

Seth Anthony, Director, Office of Academic Excellence

NWCCU Accreditation

Regional accreditation:

- a mechanism for demonstrating and ensuring quality (“carrot”),
- enables access to Title IV funds (federal financial aid, “stick”).

Accreditation centers around “core themes” and “mission fulfillment”
– as defined by the institution (NWCCU terminology changing).

Monitoring of key performance indicators that reflect institutional identity and goals, as part of a genuine, participatory continuous improvement process that informs decision-making and resource allocation.

NWCCU Cycle

Seven-year cycle:

2016: Year 7 – Mission Fulfillment Report

Received five recommendations; #1, #2 resolved quickly.

#3, #4, #5 about assessment process; *ad hoc* report due 2019

2017: Year 1 – “Mission and Core Themes Report”

(Define Indicators)

2019: *Year 3 – Mid-Cycle Self-Assessment
and Ad Hoc Report*

2021: Year 5 – Finance and Policies audit (new)

2023: Year 7 – Mission Fulfillment Report

NWCCU Recommendations

2016: NWCCU said Oregon Tech requires improvement on:

- doing assessment in a systematic and participatory way (Rec #4)
- using assessment data to inform institutional decision-making (Rec #3)
- reviewing assessment processes to ensure that they are meaningful (Rec #5)

“Assessment” (continuous improvement) processes can be:

- **institutional** (university-level key performance indicators)
- **programmatic** (student and learning outcomes for a degree)
- **administrative** (KPI's for an administrative unit)

Institutional Assessment Plan

Examination of key performance indicators needs to be systematic and embedded in our processes.

Current academic year:

- (1) complete **initial review** of current indicators (all 27),
 - are indicators linked to mission, measurable, actionable?
 - are they shared and discussed? have actions yielded improvement?
 - should inform rethinking of indicators alongside strategic planning
- (2) **formalize** leadership of this process, team, regular reporting and broad engagement.
- (3) begin to **shape decision-making** processes and resource-allocation processes to make use of this data.

New Directions for NWCCU Standards

Greater emphasis on “indicators of student achievement

(such as: course completion, experiential learning, degree completion, retention, job placement)”

... as measures of “institutional effectiveness.”

NWCCU calls for indicators that:

- are “aligned with indicators for peer institutions”
- are “made widely available”
- “inform planning, decision making, and allocation of resources”
- are examined to “mitigate achievement gaps and promote equity”
- are part of “ongoing and systematic” processes that “lead to improvement”