

**Update on Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Special Board Meeting
March 18, 2016**

Introduction: Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is one of six regional organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit postsecondary institutions. NWCCU reviews institutional effectiveness and oversees accreditation for 162 institutions in the Northwest region, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Brief History: NWCCU, also referred to as The Commission, was reaffirmed in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Education, soon after revision and adoption of new Standards of Accreditation. There are currently five Standards (reduced from seven), which are applied within a seven-year cycle (formerly 10 years). In addition, 24 Eligibility Requirements must be met by each accredited institution.

Oregon Tech History: Oregon Tech was initially accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools in 1962 (now known as Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities). Oregon Tech's accreditation was reaffirmed by NWCCU under the old Standards of Accreditation in 2007 and reaffirmed under the new Standards in 2013.

Year-Seven Self-Evaluation and Site Visit: In compliance with the new Standards of Accreditation, Oregon Tech is currently in the year-seven period of the accreditation cycle. The Oregon Tech Self-Evaluation Report has been completed and submitted to NWCCU. This document has been made available for the Board of Trustees for review. A nine-member evaluation team is scheduled to conduct the required site visit April 4-6, 2016. Each evaluator is assigned to specific standards according to expertise. (List of evaluators attached).

Board of Trustees Participation: NWCCU requirements include meeting with the institutional governing board. While the desire is to meet with the entire Board of Trustees, the evaluator(s) will meet with the Board Chair and as many Trustees as possible at the minimum.

Discussion Points: The Commission does not provide a list of questions that might be asked, nor do they indicate specific Eligibility Requirements, or Standards that may be discussed with any individual or group. At minimum, one might expect the Board of Trustees to be asked questions pertaining to the institutional governance and the role of the Board.

NWCCU Standards: The Standards of Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements and much more are available for review at nwccu.org.