

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (1952 / 2016)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy status") of postsecondary degree-granting educational institutions in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 05/22/2018
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is a regional institutional accreditor that accredits (or preaccredits) over 150 degree granting institutions in seven states, and including those programs offered via distance education within these institutions.

Most of the institutions accredited by NWCCU use the Secretary's recognition of the agency to establish eligibility to participate in the Title IV, HEA student financial assistance programs. Therefore, the agency must meet the separate and independent requirements.

Recognition History

NWCCU received initial recognition in 1952 and has received periodic renewal of recognition since that time. The agency's subsequent compliance report was reviewed and accepted at the August 2016 NACIQI meeting, at which time the agency's recognition was continued for a period of one and a half years.

The agency submitted its next regularly scheduled petition for continued recognition in January 2018, and that petition is the subject of the current staff analysis and has received no third party comments and two complaints during this review period.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.