

Name: Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities	Meeting Date: 05/22/2018	Response Submit Date: 04/12/2018	Status: Final Review	Type: Renewal Petition
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U.S. Department of Education

Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official

on

Recognition Compliance Issues

<h2>Recommendation Page</h2>

1. **Agency:** Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
2. **Action Item:** Renewal Petition
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:** May 22, 2018
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

<h2>Executive Summary</h2>

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.

