North Idaho College

NIC Reference Guide:
NWCCU Standards and Eligibility Requirements

This document is for quick reference only. It is not a substitute for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Standards and Eligibility Requirements.

*Asterisks indicate Standards or Eligibility Requirements that the NWCCU has identified as areas of risk in the show cause sanction issued to North Idaho College on Feb. 9, 2023. NIC must address 15 standards and 10 eligibility requirements in its March 31 report in response to the show cause sanction.

Standards

Standard One – Student Success, and Institutional Mission and Effectiveness

The institution articulates its commitment to student success, primarily measured through student learning and achievement for all students with a focus on equity and closure of achievement gaps, and establishes a mission statement, acceptable thresholds and benchmarks for effectiveness with meaningful indicators. The institution's programs are consistent with its mission and culminate in identified student outcomes leading to degrees, certificates, credentials, employment or transfer to other higher education institutions or programs. Programs are systematically assessed using meaningful indicators to assure currency, improve teaching and learning strategies, and achieve stated student learning outcomes for all students, including underrepresented students and first-generation college students.

1.A.1: Adequate mission statement

Improving Institutional Effectiveness

1.B.1: Appropriate process to assess institutional effectiveness

1.B.2: Appropriate and effective mission fulfillment indicators

1.B.3: Inclusive planning process and allocation of resources

1.B.4: Development of strategic plan and use of appropriate feedback loops*

Student Learning

1.C.1: Appropriate content and rigor of offerings

1.C.2: Appropriate awarding of credit, degrees, certificates or credentials

1.C.3: Disclosure of expected program and degree learning outcomes

1.C.4: Definition and accessibility of information on admission and completion, and graduation requirements

1.C.5: Effective system of assessment of the quality of learning

1.C.6: Appropriate general education curriculum

1.C.7: Use of results assessment of student learning to continuously improve student learning outcomes

1.C.8: Transfer credit and credit for prior learning

1.C.9: Graduate programs (not applicable)

Student Achievement

1.D.1: Ability for students to benefit from programs and appropriate orientation of students

1.D.2: Publication and disaggregation of indicators for student achievement and to close barriers to academic excellence and success (equity gaps)

1.D.3: Use of peer institutions with disaggregated indicators of student achievement

1.D.4: Transparency of student achievement analysis and allocation of resources to mitigate perceived equity gaps.

Standard Two – Governance, Resources, and Capacity
The institution articulates its commitment to a structure of governance that is inclusive in its planning and decision-making. Through its planning, operational activities and allocation of resources, the institution demonstrates a commitment to student learning and achievement in an environment respectful of meaningful discourse.*

Governance

2.A.1: Effective governance structure with clearly defined board roles*

2.A.2: Effective system of leadership with qualified administrators*

2.A.3: Employment of qualified CEO*

2.A.4: Decision making structures include considerations of views of internal constituent groups*

Academic Freedom

2.B.1: Adherence to principles of academic freedom and independence*

2.B.2: Support of independent thought, and pursuit and dissemination of knowledge

Policies and Procedures

2.C.1: Appropriate transfer-of-credit policy

2.C.2: Appropriate student rights and responsibilities policies and procedures

2.C.3: Appropriate student admissions, placement and termination policies

2.C.4: Secure retention of student records

Institutional Integrity

2.D.1: Integrity of announcements, statements and publications*

2.D.2: High ethical standards in its management and operations*

2.D.3: Adhering to clearly defined conflict of interest policies*

Financial Resources

2.E.1: Demonstration of financial stability

2.E.2: Appropriate financial planning with appropriate input from stakeholders*

2.E.3 Transparent management of financial resources in accordance to applicable policies and federal and state law*

Human Resources

2.F.1: Appropriate and clear human resources policies and procedures*

2.F.2: Appropriate opportunities for professional growth and development.

2.F.3: Qualified faculty, staff and administrators sufficient to meet mission of college*

2.F.4: Regular and appropriate evaluation of personnel*

Student Support Resources

2.G.1: Appropriate learning environment with appropriate student support

2.G.2: Publication of catalog

2.G.3: Accurate representation of publication and other written materials

2.G.4: Appropriate financial aid program

2.G.5: Financial aid information: repayment information and published default rates

2.G.6: Appropriate advising program

2.G.7: Appropriate verification of student identity including online courses

Library and Information Resources

2.H.1 Appropriate library and information resources

Physical and Technology Infrastructure

2.I.1 Appropriate physical and technology infrastructure

Eligibility Requirements

1. Operational Status (for candidate institutions)

2. Operational Focus and Independence*

3. Authority

4. Institutional Effectiveness

5. Student Learning

6. Student Achievement

7. Non-Discrimination*

8. Institutional Integrity*

9. Governing Board*

10. Chief Executive Officer*

11. Administration*

12. Faculty

13. Educational Programs

14. Library and Informational Resources

15. Physical and Technological Infrastructure

16. Academic Freedom

17. Admissions

18. Public Information*

19. Financial Resources and Planning*

20. Financial Accountability*

21. Disclosure

22. Relationship with NWCCU*

23. Institutional Capacity