
Overview of the Revised Accreditation Standards and New Oversight Process

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Standard

An accreditation standard is a principle-based statement of expectations for institutional practice that concurrently:

- 1) Functions as an indicator of educational quality and effectiveness by which institutions are evaluated; and**
- 2) Provides guidance for continuous improvement.**

New Accreditation Standards

Standard One:

Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Outcomes

Standard Two:

Resources and Capacity

Standard Three:

Planning and Implementation

Standard Four:

Effectiveness and Improvement

Standard Five:

Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation

Core Theme

A core theme is a manifestation of a fundamental aspect of institutional mission with an overarching common purpose that guides planning for programs and services, development of capacity, and application of resources to fulfill that aspect of the mission.

Section A	Standard One: Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Outcomes Explication of Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Intended Outcomes								
	Standard Two: Resources and Capacity Examination of Major Institutional Systems								
Section B	Standard Three: Planning and Implementation Institutional and Core Theme Planning to Apply Resources and Capacity								
	T H E M E 1		T H E M E 2		T H E M E 3		T H E M E 4	• • •	T H E M E N
	Standard Four: Effectiveness and Improvement Assess Achievement in Core Themes with Results Used for Improvement								
	T H E M E 1		T H E M E 2		T H E M E 3		T H E M E 4	• • •	T H E M E N
Section C	Standard Five: Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation Evaluate Mission Fulfillment; Evaluate Adaptability to Change; Determine Confidence for Future Relevance, Success, and Viability								

Section A

Purpose and Potential

Standard One

Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Outcomes

Standard One requires the development and communication of a clearly defined institutional mission and core themes within that mission. It also requires identification of goals or intended outcomes, each with assessable indicators of achievement, which will be used to assess effectiveness.

Section A

Purpose and Potential

Standard Two

Resources and Capacity

Standard Two enables an evaluation of inputs to determine the *potential* for institutional success by focusing on the capital available to apply toward mission fulfillment and achievement of goals and intended outcomes of theme cores within that mission.

Section B

Plans and Achievements

Standard Three

Planning and Implementation

Standard Three requires regular and systematic planning that provides direction, sets priorities, and guides application of resources and capacity to fulfill mission and achieve core theme goals or outcomes. Planning includes identification of intended student learning outcomes for educational programs.

Section B

Plans and Achievements

Standard Four

Effectiveness and Improvement

Standard Four requires regular and systematic assessment of achievement of goals and outcomes for each core theme. Results are published and used for improvement. Assessment of student achievement of intended learning outcomes is conducted for all educational programs.

Section C

Institutional Success and Viability

Standard Five

Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation

Standard Five evaluates mission fulfillment by analyzing and synthesizing effectiveness in achieving goals and outcomes of core themes. It requires monitoring of institutional environments to adapt as needed to ensure institutional relevance, sustainability, and viability over time.

Analysis and Synthesis Embedded in the Accreditation Standards

		Standard One: Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Outcomes Explication of Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Intended Outcomes									
		Standard Three: Planning and Implementation Institutional and Core Theme Planning to Apply Resources and Capacity									
		Theme 1		Theme 2		Theme 3		Theme 4	...	Theme N	
S t a n d a r d T w o	Examination of Major Institutional Systems	Governance	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Personnel	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Education Program	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Student Support	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Library Resources	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Technology	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Finance	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Facilities	↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓ →		← ↓
		Theme 1		Theme 2		Theme 3		Theme 4	...	Theme N	
		Standard Four: Effectiveness and Improvement Assess Achievement in Core Themes with Results Used for Improvement									
Standard Five: Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation Evaluate Mission Fulfillment; Evaluate Adaptability to Change Determine Confidence for Future Relevance, Success, and Viability											

Examples

Access
Quality
Student Success
Student Development
Meet Community Needs

Septennial Accreditation Cycle

Standard	Year	Process
Standard One: Mission, Core Themes, Goals, and Outcomes	1	Report on Standard One; No Visit Report reviewed by committee of evaluators; Findings forwarded to Board of Commissioners.
Standard Two: Resources and Capacity	3	Expand Report on Standard One to Include Standard Two; Visit to Address Standards One and Two
Standard Three: Planning and Implementation; Standard Four: Effectiveness and Improvement	5	Expand Report on Standards One and Two to Include Standards Three and Four; No Visit Report reviewed by committee of evaluators with particular attention on Standards Three and Four; Findings forwarded to Board of Commissioners.
Standard Five: Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation	7	Expand Report on Standards One, Two, Three, and Four to Include Standard Five; Visit to Address Standards Three, Four, and Five

Reporting Structure

Biennial reports reflect institutional reality throughout the accreditation cycle

Approved (minor and substantive) changes are incorporated in next scheduled report

Natural opportunities every two years to evaluate progress on areas of concern

Reduced need for interim reports/visits

Consistent with non-compliance timeline

Evolving Report

Each report is internally coherent

Changes since last report are identified

Previous chapters are modified as necessary to reflect those changes

Year Seven report reflects current reality over all standards and provides a foundation for the next cycle

Pilot Institutions

Carroll College

Columbia Basin College

University of Alaska Anchorage

Wenatchee Valley College

Guidance

Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports

Year One Report

Title Page

Title of Report

Institution Name

Date

Table of Contents

Introduction [One (1) page maximum]

Institutional Context [One (1) page maximum]

Preface

Brief Update on Institutional Changes Since Last Report
Address Topics Requested By the Commission

Year One Report (continued)

Section I: Mission and Goals [Three (3) Pages Maximum]

Mission Statement

Statement of Institutional Goals

Dates and Methods of Most Recent Reviews of Mission and Goals

Indicators of Mission Fulfillment

Indicators of Achievement of Institutional Goals

Rationale regarding why the Indicators are Assessable and Meaningful Measures of Mission Fulfillment and Goal Achievement

Year One Report (continued)

Section II: Core Themes

For each Core Theme: [Three (3) Pages Maximum Per Theme]

Descriptive Title (e.g., Workforce Development; Undergraduate Education; Service; Research)

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Indicators of Achievement of Goals and Intended Outcomes

Rationale as to Why the Indicators are Assessable and Meaningful Measures of Achievement

Section III: Chapter One Summary [One (1) Page Maximum]

Year Three Report

Update Preface and Expand Year One Report to Include:

Chapter Two (Standard Two: Resources and Capacity)

Section I: Governance

Section II: Personnel

Section III: Education Program

Section IV: Student Support

Section V: Library and Information Resources

Section VI: Technology

Section VII: Finance

Section VIII: Facilities

Section IX: Chapter Two Summary

Report Summary (Chapters One and Two)

Year Five Report

Update Preface and Expand Year Three Report to Include:

Chapter Three (Standard Three: Planning and Implementation)

Section I: Institutional Strategic Planning

Section II: Core Theme Planning

For each Core Theme:

Integration with Strategic Plan

Alignment with Identified Goals and Outcomes

For Educational Programs:

Intended Learning Outcomes

Curriculum

General Education and Related Instruction

Graduate Programs

Section III: Ethical and Professional Conduct

Section IV: Chapter Three Summary

Year Five Report (continued)

Update Preface and Expand Year Three Report to Include:

Chapter Four (Standard Four: Effectiveness and Improvement)

Section I: Assessment - For each Core Theme

Adequacy and Effectiveness of Resources and Capacity

Assess Achievement of Goals and Intended Outcomes

For Educational Programs

Program Assessment

Student Learning Assessment

Use of Results for Improvement

Dissemination of Results

Core Theme Summary

Section II: Chapter Four Summary

Report Summary (Chapters One, Two, Three, and Four)

Year Seven Report

Update Preface and Expand Year Five Report to Include:

Chapter Five (Mission Fulfillment, Sustainability, and Adaptation)

Section I: Evaluation of Mission Fulfillment

Section II: Environmental Scan

Section III: Adaptation and Sustainability

Section III: Self Regulation

Section IV: Chapter Five Summary

Report Summary (Chapters One, Two, Three, Four, and Five)

Year Three Committee

Chair

Mission, Core Themes, Goals; Governance

Evaluator

Education Program

Evaluator

Student Support; Personnel

Evaluator

Library and Information Resources; Technology

Evaluator

Finance; Facilities

Year Seven Committee

Chair

Mission Fulfillment; Adaptation; Sustainability

Evaluators

One Evaluator for Each Mission Core Theme

Outstanding Issues

All requests for 2011 or later ARFE, Progress, Focused, and Regular reports are rescinded.

Instead, each institution will address the subject(s) of those requests as a single addendum to its 2011 report under the new standards and process.

Timeline

Spring

Refine Standards

Late Spring

Penultimate Draft

July

Final Board Review

Summer

Finalize Standards

Fall

Regional Meetings

Late Fall

Membership Vote

January 2010

Board Ratification

January 2011

Implementation

General Comments and Questions