

Update on ISU and the new regional accreditation standards

Idaho State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). This accreditation is for the institution as a whole and is distinct from specialized accreditation that is available for individual programs. Maintaining our accreditation is critical to ensuring our students qualify for financial aid, can transfer credits, and can be admitted to graduate programs. Recently, the commission revised its accreditation standards and procedures. The accreditation process is moving from a ten year cycle to a seven year cycle. It is designed to be a continuous process keyed on mission fulfillment. In a normal seven year cycle, each institution is required to submit four self-evaluations to the NWCCU. The self-evaluations build year by year. So for example, the preparation of the year three self-evaluation is expected to trigger revision in the content of the year one self evaluation.

During the phase-in of the new standards some institutions, such as ISU, are on an accelerated schedule and must complete the seven year cycle in four. This means that we submit a self-evaluation each year for four years. The first of these, pertaining primarily to mission, was submitted last September. The second, focusing on resources, is due next September.

The first year self-evaluation was drafted by the Accreditation Steering Committee. The year two self-evaluation is currently in the hands of eight Standard Two subcommittees. For this evaluation of resources to be inclusive and reflect an institution wide perspective, it is critical for the campus to engage in the process. Any of the Standard Two groups would welcome your participation.

As the year progresses, we plan to update the campus community regularly in News and Notes and through a number of open meetings. We are also working to post information about the process on [Academic Affairs' accreditation website](#).

By Barbara Adamcik and Alan Egger, co-chairs of the Accreditation Steering Committee