



Workplace News

NWCCU 2020 Standards: Standard 1.C. - Student Learning

Standard 1.C. consists of nine sub-standards that can be summarized into seven broad areas that UVU addressed in its self-study report and will highlight during the Fall 2025 site visit



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Utah Valley University (UVU) is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and must comply with NWCCU Standards, Eligibility Requirements, and Policies. The university is proud to have achieved and maintained institutional accreditation through NWCCU since 1969.

Accreditation is required to secure federal funding and demonstrates the university's commitment to academic excellence and the continuous enhancement of institutional effectiveness. The NWCCU's rigorous standards, grounded in data and evidence, guide UVU's efforts to fulfill its mission and elevate student learning and achievement within an inclusive governance framework that prioritizes comprehensive planning and decision-making.

Under the leadership of Associate Provost Dr. Laurie Sharp and her team in Academic Programs and Assessment, UVU is meticulously preparing for its seven-year comprehensive evaluation of the university's institutional effectiveness. To raise institutional awareness and prepare the university community for this evaluation, we provide a series of accreditation articles explaining standards and sub-standards. Each article summarizes the university's compliance and identifies areas for improvement from the self-study process.

Standard 1.C. - Student Learning

Student learning is at the heart of institutional accreditation. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) play a crucial role in higher education. SLOs provide a clear framework for assessing what students should learn during their academic journey. Standard 1.C. consists of nine sub-standards that can be summarized into seven broad areas that UVU addressed in its self-study report and will highlight during the Fall 2025 site visit.

Program Alignment: UVU offers programs consistent with its mission, culminating in student learning outcomes leading to degrees, certificates, or credentials. These programs align with recognized fields of study.

Credit and Learning: UVU awards credit and credentials based on student learning. Learning outcomes cover breadth, depth, sequencing, and synthesis of knowledge.

Transparency: Expected program and degree learning outcomes are published for all credentials. Students receive information on learning outcomes for individual courses through multiple sources (e.g., course syllabi).

Assessment and Improvement: UVU assesses learning quality using effective methods. Faculty play a central role in curriculum design and assessment.

Institutional Learning Outcomes: UVU has established and continually assesses core competencies across programs. UVU refers to these as Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs). ELOs are designed to promote student learning. The ELOs are communication, critical thinking, digital literacy, ethical reasoning, inclusion, information, quantitative, and scientific literacy. ELOs are designed to meet institutional accreditation requirements. Specialized accreditation requirements may have additional learning outcomes for academic programs.

Continuous Improvement: Assessment results inform UVU's planning and practices to enhance student achievement and learning.

Transfer Credit and Graduate Programs: Clear policies guide transfer credit acceptance. Graduate programs differ from undergraduate programs by requiring greater depth, intellectual capacity, and engagement in research or professional practice.

The Year 7 Self Study report and supportive evidence for this standard may be accessed via the following link:

www.uvu.edu/accreditation-academic-assessment/accreditation/year-seven

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