



# NWCCU Accreditation

## Overview of Current Cycle, 2019-2025

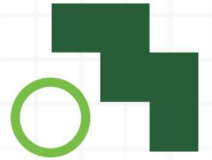
Preparation for NWCCU Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

By: Laurie Sharp, Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)

UVU's Accreditation Website:

<https://www.uvu.edu/accreditation-academic-assessment/index.html>





# 2020 Eligibility Requirements

**Failure to meet any Eligibility Requirement may lead to the imposition of a sanction or adverse action for a member institution.**

- |                                       |  |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Operational Status                 | 9. Governing Board                         | 16. Academic Freedom                 |
| 2. Operational Focus and Independence | 10. Chief Executive Officer                | 17. Admissions                       |
| 3. Authority                          | 11. Administration                         | 18. Public Information               |
| 4. Institutional Effectiveness        | 12. Faculty                                | 19. Financial Resources and Planning |
| 5. Student Learning                   | 13. Educational Programs                   | 20. Financial Accountability         |
| 6. Student Achievement                | 14. Library and Information Resources      | 21. Disclosure                       |
| 7. Non-Discrimination                 | 15. Physical and Technology Infrastructure | 22. Relationship with NWCCU          |
| 8. Institutional Integrity            |  | 23. Institutional Capacity           |



# 2020 Standards for Accreditation

<b>Standard One – Student Success, and Institutional Mission and Effectiveness</b>	<b>Standard Two – Governance, Resources, and Capacity</b>
<b>Evaluated in Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness</b>	<b>Evaluated in Year Six Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review</b>
Institutional Mission (1.A.1) Improving Institutional Effectiveness (1.B.1 – 1.B.4) Student Learning (1.C.1 – 1.C.9) Student Achievement (1.D.1 – 1.D.4)	Governance (2.A.1 – 2.A.4) Academic Freedom (2.B.1 – 2.B.2) Policies and Procedures (2.C.1 – 2.C.4) Institutional Integrity (2.D.1 – 2.D.3) Financial Resources (2.E.1 – 2.E.3) Human Resources (2.F.1 – 2.F.4) Student Support Resources (2.G.1 – 2.G.7) Library and Information Resources (2.H.1) Physical and Technology Infrastructure (2.I.1)





### January 2020: NWCCU Updates for Institutions

New Eligibility Requirements, Standards for Accreditation, and Evaluation Cycle took effect.



### January 2021: UVU's 2020 Mid-Cycle Evaluation

Fulfilled two outstanding recommendations about planning and assessment processes: (1) continue to identify ways to fulfill mission, and (2) support the acquisition and strategic allocation of resources to address demonstrated growth needs.



### January/February 2024: Fall 2023 Ad Hoc Report

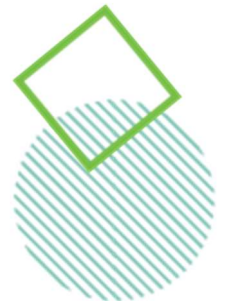
Two program evaluations to follow up on revenue and enrollment projections compared with actual values: (1) Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management, and (2) Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

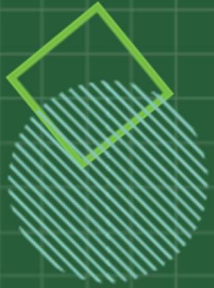


### January/February 2024: NWCCU identified a Type 1 Finding in Fall 2023 PRFR

Found substantially in compliance but needs improvement:  
"loan default rate isn't published on website. Is available through a third party link and isn't intuitive to find."

# NWCCU Actions in Current Cycle



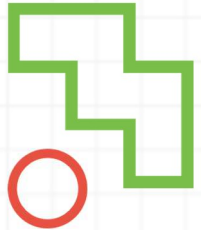


# 2020 Mid-Cycle Evaluation

Peer evaluation team assesses an institution's progress in the areas of mission fulfillment, student achievement, and assessment of student learning. The Mid-Cycle Evaluation includes a self-evaluation report and visit.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit with a Peer Evaluation Team did not take place.**

# 2020 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Summary



Mission Fulfillment	Student Achievement Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UPAC evaluated UVU's mission and action commitments from the 2019 Vision 2030 strategic plan.</li><li>Strengths:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Successful dual-mission model</li><li>Student contributions to the community</li></ul></li><li>Growth Areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Low completion rates</li><li>Lack of institutional-level evaluation for SLOs</li><li>Perceived lack of transparency and accountability among employees</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UVU prioritizes student access and success, leveraging disaggregated data while mindful of its limitations.</li><li><u>Completion</u>: Aim to increase from 35% Fall 2019 to 45% by 2025.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Outcome Measure for all students</li></ul></li><li><u>Retention</u>: Achieved goal with 65% one-year retention rate for bachelor's degree students in Fall 2018.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One-year retention rate for first-time, full-time degree-seeking students entering in fall</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Persistence</u>: Targeting maintenance or increase of 71% persistence rate<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued enrollment or degree completion at any higher education institution</li></ul></li><li><u>Post-Graduation Success</u>: Targeting maintenance or increase of Alumni Survey results.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Employed: 86.7% of graduates aged 24 and under; 88.9% of those over 24</li><li>Continuing Education: 36.1% of graduates aged 24 and under; 88.9% of those over 24</li></ul></li></ul>

## Equity Gap Analysis

*with Continuous Improvement Strategies*

### Race and Ethnicity

- UVU Latino Initiative and other multicultural initiatives
- Latino student enrollment increased by 361% and graduation headcount by 372%, with 4,966 Latino students.
- Students of color grew by 180% from 2008 (2,620 students, 8.6%) to 2018 (7,359 students, 18.4%).

### Gender

- UVU's Women's Success Center
- Enrollment: 52% male, 48% female
- Degrees Awarded 54% male, 46% female

### Age

- Concurrent Enrollment and Adult Learner Initiative
- Goal for High School Students: Offer English 1010 and quantitative literacy concurrent enrollment courses in every high school in its service region.
- Goal for Students Aged 25 and Older: Task force developed an adult learner plan.

### Socioeconomic Status

- Financial Aid and Scholarships Department
- 2016-2017 Cycle: Utah had the lowest FAFSA completion rate nationwide.
- 2018-2019 Cycle: 13,597 UVU students received Pell grants, contributing to a 39% increase in Utah FAFSA completion among high schoolers.

### First-Generation Students

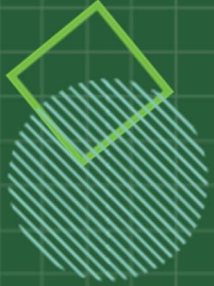
- UVU's "I Am First initiative and First-Generation Student Success Center
- In Fall 2018, the first-generation student population grew to 64%, a 7% increase since Fall 2013.

# Programmatic Assessment

UVU's program assessment process is designed to ensure student success and promote continuous improvement while respecting the unique intellectual and professional positions of each discipline and the aims of the university's Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs).

	Program Learning Outcomes (Individual Academic Programs)		Essential Learning Outcomes (General Education and All Academic Programs)	
	Institutional Track	Accreditation Track		
Institutional Review	University Planning Advisory Committee Mission Fulfillment Evaluation			Institutional Review
	Academic Program Assessment Committee Review			
		Academic Affairs Committee Accreditation Review		
School/ College Review	School or College Assessment Committee Review		General Education Committee Assessment Review	General Education Committee Review
Program/ Department Review	Institutional Program Assessment Process	Programmatic Accreditor Program Assessment Process		
	Establish PLOs applicable to majors		Establish ELOs applicable to all students	





# 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Finances Review (PRFR)

Desk review and evaluation by an external peer-panel of experts, which seeks to determine institutional compliance with Standard Two.

# Summary of PRFR Report



## Commendations

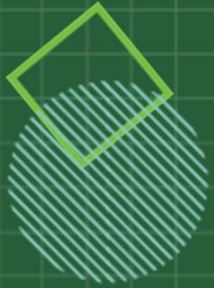
- Governance 2.A.4: There appears to be adequate opportunities for faculty, staff, administrators, and students to have their views considered. The budget allocation process is well outlined and provides good input as well.
- Academic Freedom 2.B.1: Freedom of speech and academic freedom is clearly outlined.
- Policies and Procedures 2.C.1: Credit transfer policy is clear and well documented.
- Institutional Integrity 2.D.2: Ethics Point is a good touch.
- Institutional Integrity 2.D.3: COI website should be noted as a best practice.
- Financial Resources 2.E.2: Information helped demonstrate stakeholder participation.
- Financial Resources 2.E.3: Supplemental description of controls was greatly appreciated.
- Human Resources 2.F.2: The administrative leave policy is impressive.
- Student Support Resources 2.G.1: Numerous programs and resources in place to address the standard.

## Suggested Improvement Areas

- Policies and Procedures 2.C.4: Policies address the required standards. Additional language that addresses cybersecurity should be included.
- Concluding Comment: Policies and procedures appear to be dated and not reviewed regularly.

## Needs Improvement

- Student Support Resources 2.G.5: Loan default rate isn't published on website. Is available through a third party link and isn't intuitive to find.
  - Prior to PRFR review, UVU included a direct link to the authoritative source, the U.S. Department of Education.
  - After PRFR review, UVU published a manual entry for the loan default rate.



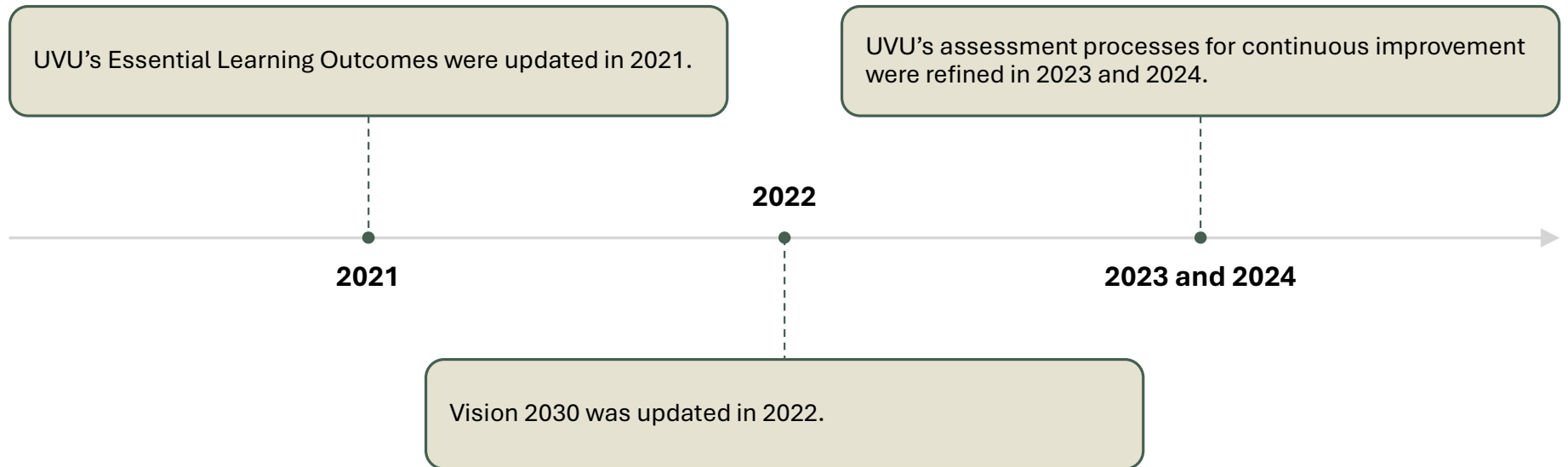
# 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE)

The EIE addresses all Standards and reaffirms the institution's continued compliance with the Eligibility Requirements. The EIE includes a self-evaluation report and visit.

**Fall 2024 Site Visit: October 23-25**



# Important Updates Since Submission of the 2020 Mid-Cycle Evaluation



# Snapshot of Year Seven: EIE Self-Evaluation

## INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

Peer evaluators will conduct a NWCCU accreditation site visit at UVU on October 23-25, 2024.

### UVU MISSION AND VALUES

UVU is an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship.

Exceptional Care | Exceptional Accountability | Exceptional Results

### ABOUT UVU ACCREDITATION

UVU has been continuously accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1969. In 2020, NWCCU updated its accreditation standards and eligibility requirements. The revised standards emphasize two main areas: (1) student success and institutional mission and effectiveness, and (2) governance, resources, and capacity. The standards define the quality, effectiveness, and continuous improvements expected of accredited institutions. Click [here](#) to access the UVU accreditation website.

Public notice for UVU's Year-Seven Comprehensive Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) visit is [here](#).

### UVU ACCREDITATION REPORTS

- NWCCU-accredited institutions have a regular schedule of self-evaluation reports over a seven-year period. In the **current cycle**, UVU has completed the following reports:
- Year Three Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report
    - Will UVU be ready to demonstrate mission fulfillment and sustainability in Year Seven?
  - Year Six Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR)
    - How do UVU's governance structure, practices, and policies ensure sustainable and viable operations?
    - Does UVU have adequate financial, human, student support, library and information resources, and physical and technological infrastructures to support student learning and achievement?
  - Year Seven EIE
    - How does UVU effectively translate its mission into clear educational goals that strive to advance student learning and success?
    - How does UVU employ a continuous planning, resource allocation, and evaluation process to assess institutional effectiveness?
    - How does UVU ensure quality, alignment, transparency, and effectiveness of its educational programs?
    - How does UVU promote student achievement through recruitment, orientation, and closing equity gaps using disaggregated achievement indicators?



### STRATEGIC PLAN

**Vision 2030**, adopted in 2019 and refreshed in 2022, articulates a collective vision for the university crafted with input from diverse internal stakeholders through an open and inclusive process. Three action commitments drive UVU's mission:

- Include: Provide accessible, flexible, affordable education in an inclusive environment.
- Engage: Strengthen learning and societal impact through community and industry collaboration.
- Achieve: Enhance student success via improved recruitment, retention, and completion.

These commitments lead to nine priority initiatives and 35 clear objectives under Vision 2030. Aligned with the [Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan](#), UVU's goals harmonize with its master plans to boost adaptability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

### MASTER PLANS

UVU's planning processes also encompass master plans that provide overarching guidance for broad areas of the institution:

- Academic Master Plan
- Completion Plan IVU
- Digital Transformation Plan
- Facilities Master Plan
- Employment Plan
- Sustainability Plan

### INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

As shown in UVU's **Integrated Institutional Effectiveness Plan**, UVU employs iterative processes to create a self-reinforcing cycle of ongoing planning, assessment, and resource allocation processes aligned directly with Vision 2030. This approach drives evidence-based decision-making and improvement initiatives, supported by UVU's shared governance model, fostering accountability, inclusivity, and ownership. The goal is to continually fulfill UVU's mission, achieve goals, and enhance educational outcomes and the student experience.

Questions or Comments? Contact Laurie Sharp at [Lsharp@uvu.edu](mailto:Lsharp@uvu.edu)



### MEANINGFUL INDICATORS

**High-Level Indicators**  
In 2022-2023, UVU leaders developed the **UVU Balance Scorecard** to identify specific performance measures that track progress toward established targets for each priority initiative in Vision 2030. Previously, Action Commitment Indicators with goals were maintained and published [here](#).

#### Student Achievement Indicators

Data dashboards on the Business Intelligence and Research Services Department's website allow for the tracking and disaggregation of student achievement indicators:

- Persistence rates** with group comparisons based on age, ethnicity, gender, and race.
- One-year retention rates** for all degree-seeking students or those pursuing a bachelor's degree, with demographic disaggregation by race, gender, age, or first-generation status.
- Completion rates** with filter options for student characteristics, school and college, department, major and emphasis, and degree information.
- Outcome measure** with demographic disaggregation by race, gender, age, or first-generation status.

Data dashboards also provide insights into post-graduation success of students. These **dashboards** offer insights by school/college, major, concentration, degree level, and graduating class into alumni university experiences, employment, and continuing education.

### PEER INSTITUTIONS

- In 2019, UVU selected 10 peer institutions:
- Regional Universities
    - Arkansas Tech University
    - CUNY College of Staten Island
    - University of Alaska - Anchorage
    - Utah Tech University
    - Webster State University
    - Western Kentucky University
  - Emerging Dual-Mission Colleges
    - Bellevue College
    - Palm Beach State College
    - St. Petersburg College
    - South Texas College

Annual comparisons with these peers inform UVU about university performance in enrollment, retention, and outcome and performance measures. The annual **IRFIS Data Feedback Report** summarizes institutional indicators for UVU alongside its regional and peer comparison group.

### UVU STRENGTHS

- Boasts a caring and dedicated faculty and staff who are experts in their fields and committed to student success.
- Ensures all students can access high-quality education
  - Year-over-year increases in total students (Fall 2023: 44,659)
  - Year-over-year increases in full-time equivalent students (Fall 2023: 28,999)
  - Educates the most Utahans (Fall 2023) Headcount: 41,634
- Facilitates programs and services tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, including academic advising, career counseling, internship services, and wellness and basic needs resources.
- Facilitates programs and services to address the varied needs of employees, such as flexible work arrangements, health and wellness programs, professional development opportunities, and tuition benefits.
- Invests in modern facilities and infrastructure to support learning, including labs, libraries, and recreational facilities.
- Maintains affordability (47% students receive financial aid that covers 60% of tuition and fees and is non-repayable).
- Offers a range of academic programs a wide range of programs and degrees, including programs in areas like aviation, business and analysis, culinary arts, cybersecurity, physician assistant studies, and social work.
- Offers a variety of learning options, including traditional classroom settings, online courses, and hybrid formats.
- Promotes timely completion for all students.
  - Increased 8-year graduation outcome measure for all UVU students by 22% in the past 5 years (2019-10-2023) + 40%
  - Increased 1-year retention rate for full-time, first-time bachelor's students by 6% in the past five years (Fall 2022 Cohort 70%)
  - Increased total awards earned by Latino students by 65% since 2018 (2021-2022 = 1,643 graduates).

### UVU GROWTH AREAS

- Update regional and national peer institutions to more closely align with our unique mission, size, structure, and student demographics.
- Enhance curriculum development.
- Refine program-level assessment of student learning and administrative unit assessment.
- Streamline university stakeholder access to necessary data more promptly and efficiently.

Questions or Comments? Contact Laurie Sharp at [Lsharp@uvu.edu](mailto:Lsharp@uvu.edu)

# EIE Site Visit Schedule

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- Site visit schedule will be finalized by end of September 2024.
- Site Visit Meetings on **October 23-25**:
  - Peer Evaluation Team Meetings: Review assignments, refine plans and strategies of the visit, share observations that emerge during the visit, and finalize writing for the team report.
  - Meeting with Accreditation Liaison Officer: Discuss final logistical arrangements and the organization of the visit .
  - Meeting with the President and Senior Leadership: Welcome the Peer Evaluation Team, introduce key individuals, and set the tone for the visit and highlight important institutional accomplishments, priorities, initiatives, and challenges.
  - Meeting with the Board of Trustees: Meet with members of the governing board of the institution.
  - Meeting with the Accreditation Committee: Discuss operational mechanics of the NWCCU process at UVU.
  - Meetings with Faculty, Administrators, Staff, and Committees: Meet with institutional representatives whose knowledge and involvement can help facilitate the Peer Evaluation Team review.
  - Faculty, Staff, and Student Forums: Meetings held with each of these constituent groups.
  - Peer Evaluation Team Review of Off-Campus Locations: Per federal regulations, NWCCU is expected to visit off-campus locations periodically.

# Preparation Activities

## Upcoming Actions

### **August through September**

ALO will attend a fall meeting with each division and school/college to review preparation information and address any questions.

### **End of September**

Mock Peer Evaluation Team meetings and forums will be conducted by an external expert. Your attendance is encouraged!

## Ways You Can Prepare

### **Review Institutional Accreditation Overview.**

### **Review resources on UVU's accreditation website:**

- ❖ Accreditation articles
- ❖ Current cycle reports and evidence

### **Encourage student attendance at mock and actual student forums by:**

- ❖ Highlighting their relevance to course material and real-world applications.
- ❖ Integrating student engagement into an assignment, discussion, or other class activity.
- ❖ Emphasizing the importance of student input.

### **Engage in mock and actual faculty, staff, and student forums.**



**Thank you!**

