



July 22, 2020

President Patty M. Scott
Southwestern Oregon Community College
1988 Newmark Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Dr. Scott:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 24-26, 2020, concerning the Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Southwestern Oregon Community College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 4: Spring 2012 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability – Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends Southwestern Oregon Community College for:

1. Integrating guided pathways through the student advising experience and for simplified program guides on the Academic Pathways website and in the catalog.
2. Its collective effort to move successfully to remote services and online education under extraordinary circumstances. The team heard consistent praise across the institution for "over and above" effort and shared compassion. Students are working hard and optimistic; faculty are supporting one another and reaching out to students; staff are working together across the institution; and administration has responded early and decisively.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Southwestern Oregon Community College:

1. Develop and use an integrated planning system, guided by student learning and achievement, to improve institutional effectiveness and inform resource allocation. The system should be inclusive to ensure meaningful and appropriate constituency input (2020 Standard 1.B.1 and 1.B.3).
2. Enhance its system of assessment to ensure that the College is using assessment results to create interventions that improve student learning and success (2020 Standard 1.C.5 and 1.C.7).

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2023
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

- Year 6 - Standard 2 – Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2027

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Ali Mageehon, Vice President of Instruction
Ms. Marcia Jensen, Board Chair
Dr. Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction, Whatcom Community College