

Notification to the United States Department of Education Policy

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities shall notify the Department of Education, the appropriate State postsecondary review entity, the appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public of the following types of decisions within thirty (30) days of any action taken:

Providing Information to the Department of Education Regarding an Institution's Failure to Comply with its Title IV Responsibilities or Engagement in Fraud or Abuse

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities shall provide to the Department of Education the name of any institution accredited by the Commission that it has reason to believe is failing to meet its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities or is engaged in fraud or abuse.

Providing Department of Education Information on an Institution's Compliance with Title IV

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities shall provide, upon the request of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, information it possesses regarding an accredited or preaccredited institution's compliance with its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities including its eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs for the purpose of assisting the Secretary in resolving problems with the institution's participation in these programs.

Notification to U.S. Department of Education of Commission Action on Institutions Under Negative Sanction by Other Recognized Accrediting Agencies

Under no circumstances shall the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities take an accrediting action on an institution that is under an interim action by its respective state or has been notified that its licensure is threatened. If the Commission did grant initial or continued accreditation under the conditions outlined in 34 CFR 602.28(b), it would provide the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education within 30 days with a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, as to why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the State does not preclude the agency's granting of accreditation or preaccreditation.

Providing Information to the Department of Education Regarding Changes in Its Policies, Procedures or Accreditation Standards

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities shall provide the Department of Education information regarding any proposed changes in its policies, procedures, or accreditation standards that might alter its scope of recognition or its compliance with recognition requirements.

Providing an Annual Report to the Department of Education

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities will provide the U.S. Department of Education with a copy of its annual report. Following each of its biannual meetings, the Commission will provide the U.S. Department of Education with an updated directory of accredited and preaccredited institutions and a summary of the Commission's major accrediting activities during the previous six months.