

April 26, 2016

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), UNLV's regional accrediting agency, has instituted fees to review and include in the institution's accreditation most of the changes commonly made at institutions of higher education. This is effective with actions approved in the 2015 calendar year and forward.

Fees apply to:

- Degrees, new or changes
- Units, new or changes
- Deactivation (suspension or moratorium) of a program
- Elimination (termination) of a program
- Certificate programs
- Centers
- Institutes
- Increases in program credits
- Decreases in program credits
- Contracts or MOUs with accredited and non-accredited entities
- Initial course or program offerings through distance delivery (online education)
- Transition to competency-based learning

There are additional situations that may require a fee for review that are not very common and are not listed here. Common fees are on page two.

The fees must be paid in order for NWCCU to issue their letter stating that the change is covered under the institution's accreditation, which is a requirement in order for students to receive federal funds (loans, grants) and for faculty to be eligible for federal funding for research.

Fees are to be paid by the department, unit, school, or college requesting the change. There is no additional paperwork to be completed by the unit for the NWCCU review; it will be completed by the Office of the Senior Vice Provost.

Questions about this can be directed to Gail Griffin, gail.griffin@unlv.edu, 702-895-0482.

We realize that this is an unexpected expense and appreciate your understanding.

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Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)

Substantive Change Fees:

The fee structure follows. NWCCU will invoice the institution upon receipt of the final substantive change proposal and confirmation of the category of change. **The NWCCU notification letter for the substantive change cannot be sent until receipt of the substantive change fee.**

| Substantive Changes | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$250 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement in moratorium, suspension, or termination of a degree program or certificate program of 30 semester or 45 quarter credits in length, including graduate programs |
| \$350 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of courses in distance education delivery not previously evaluated and less than 50% of total required credits for program completion |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of an instructional site or location in geographic proximity to the institution's main campus (within 20 miles) |
| \$500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% or more of a degree or certificate program's requirements completed through distance education delivery |
| \$1000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of an instructional site or location geographically apart from the institution's main campus but within the NWCCU region (more than 20 miles) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of courses or a program significantly different from existing offerings since the last NWCCU evaluation |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change from clock to credit hours (or vice versa) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial increase or decrease in program length |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractual agreements with accredited organizations |
| \$1500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program offerings outside of NWCCU's region (includes international) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial course or program offerings through distance delivery |
| \$2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to competency-based (or direct assessment) learning |
| \$2500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractual agreements with non-accredited entities/institutions |