

IUPUI Assessment Institute
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*Moving from National to Regional Accreditation:
Implications for Assessment Processes*

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presented by
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Guiding Question

What are qualities for successfully transitioning from national to regional accreditation and how does this transition affect overall institutional assessment practices?

- While national and regional accreditors once translated assessment standards differently, namely, through what metrics are those that describe *student success*, more pressure from the government may actually be making the accrediting agencies more similar than ever before, which raises additional questions the future for institutions wishing to make the transition and how to successfully do so.

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Study Components

- Introduction
- Literature Review
 - Development and History of Accreditation
 - Rise of Assessment
 - Changing Nature of Federal Oversight
 - Future Developments

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Study Components

Inquiry and Method

- This study looked at two primary guiding questions:
 - What are the differences between national and regional accreditation, and how did they evolve?
 - How does moving from national accreditation to regional accreditation impact policies and procedures at an institution, especially as they relate to assessment?
- Interviews and Review of WCU/Case study

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Study Components

- Findings
 - Governance
 - Transfer Credit
 - Prestige of Regional Model
 - Consumer Protection
 - Assessment

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Study Components

Review of West Coast University
Discussion and Conclusion

Assessment Considerations for WCU

Moving from national to regional accreditation has facilitated the follow changes regarding assessment at WCU:

- General Education as Program
- Specific Program Review cycle
- Learning Outcomes Review

...Assessment Considerations

Moving from national to regional accreditation has facilitated the follow changes regarding assessment at WCU:

- Several Policy and Procedures...
 - Faculty Rank
 - Shared Governance
 - Academic Freedom

Defining (and Measuring) Student Success at WCU

- Student Success Dashboard
- Monitoring key "trigger events":
 - Graduation Rates
 - Persistence
 - Default Rates
 - Placement Rates
 - Student Satisfaction
 - National Board/Licensing Pass Rates
 - Retention
- *Link to learning outcomes*

Graduation & Persistence Rates

Of the students who enter WCU, what percentage of those students graduate?

Of those students who enter WCU, how many persist to the second term? The third? Fourth? The intent of this measure of student success is to work towards having ever higher percentages of the student body continue deeper in their WCU careers, ultimately to graduate.

Default & Placement Rates

The University realizes the substantial financial investment required of students, the large majority of whom go into debt for this investment. This metric focuses on student ability to pay for this education.

This rate is defined as the percentage of students who have been able to obtain full-time employment in their related fields within 6 months of graduation.

Student Satisfaction

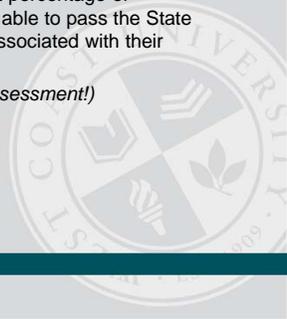
This metric pertains to the degree to which students express satisfaction with their WCU experience.



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State or Board Passage

This rate is defined by what percentage of students who graduate are able to pass the State or National Board exams associated with their discipline.
(the ultimate summative assessment!)

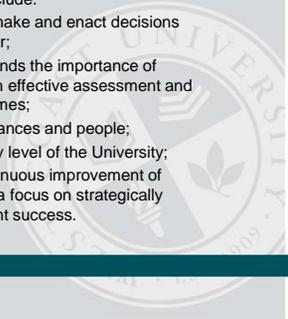


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Main Considerations for Successful Transition

Some of the characteristics that were critical to the successful transition for WCU include:

- The ability of the University to make and enact decisions and/or policies in a timely manner;
- Strong leadership that understands the importance of assessment and the link between effective assessment and improved student learning outcomes;
- Ability to secure resources—finances and people;
- Attention to compliance at every level of the University;
- A deep commitment to the continuous improvement of student learning outcomes, with a focus on strategically defining—and measuring—student success.



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Key Observations from Study

- National and regional accreditors becoming more and more similar
 - Leading to standardized “quality control”
 - How can the Degree Qualification Profile help?
- Early “warning” system to help ensure student success
- Student success defined by numerous measures.
- Learning outcomes should align with success measures
- Requires support from all levels of an institution



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Interested in receiving the full study?

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