SFU’s Accreditation with the NWCCU (as of August 2016)

SFU was granted accreditation (effective Sep 1, 2015) with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The NWCCU is an independent, non-profit membership organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the regional authority on educational quality and institutional effectiveness of higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. It recognizes higher education institutions for performance, integrity, and quality to merit the confidence of the educational community and the public. SFU is the first major Canadian research university to be granted accreditation by the NWCCU.

After a seven year application, candidacy, and self-assessment process, accreditation was attained following SFU’s submission of its Comprehensive Initial Accreditation Self Evaluation Report in February 2016 and the NWCCU site visit in April 2016.

The Benefits of Accreditation

- Regular external assessment of SFU’s adherence to best-practice standards increases self-accountability and the University’s accountability to external stakeholders.
- Helps establish clearer benchmarks/standards for assessing educational goals and thus benefit students’ learning experiences.
- Enhances the value of an SFU degree for alumni abroad and for international students returning home.
- Simplifies SFU’s relationships with US institutions, including government, foundations, and collegiate sports associations.
- Fosters public confidence in SFU’s ability to fulfill its stated vision/mission and goals.
- Increases SFU’s reputation on world stage.
- Helped to complete NCAA standing/acceptance for SFU athletics.

For more information regarding accreditation with the NWCCU, please see this link: [http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/accreditation.html](http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/accreditation.html)