SPECIAL VISIT AREAS OF FOCUS

Focus Area 1 - Assessment

"Develop common or related metrics and standards through an institution-wide approach to assessment with the goal of developing program learning outcomes and evaluating student learning outcomes across the organization."

Also see: WSCUC Criteria for Review 2.6, 4.1, and 4.3

CFR 2.6 - The institution demonstrates that its graduates consistently achieve its stated learning outcomes and established standards of performance. The institution ensures that its expectations for student learning are embedded in the standards that faculty use to evaluate student work.

Guidelines: The institution has an assessment infrastructure adequate to assess student learning at program and institution levels.

CFR 4.1 - The institution employs a deliberate set of quality-assurance processes in both academic and non-academic areas, including new curriculum and program approval processes, periodic program review, assessment of student learning, and other forms of ongoing evaluation. These processes include: collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data; tracking learning results over time; using comparative data from external sources; and improving structures, services, processes, curricula, pedagogy, and learning results.

CFR 4.3 - Leadership at all levels, including faculty, staff, and administration, is committed to improvement based on the results of inquiry, evidence, and evaluation. Assessment of teaching, learning, and the campus environment – in support of academic and co-curricular objectives – is undertaken, used for improvement, and incorporated into institutional planning processes.

Guidelines: The institution has clear, well-established policies and practices – for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information – that create a culture of evidence and improvement.

Focus Area 2 - Resources

"Seek resources necessary to effectively accomplish its vision and mission, especially those that enable NPS to hire specialized and diverse faculty and staff and modernize facilities."

Also see: WSCUC Criteria for Review 1.4, 3.1, and 3.5

CFR 1.4 - Consistent with its purposes and character, the institution demonstrates appropriate attention to the increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion through its policies, its educational and co-curricular programs, its hiring and admissions criteria, and its administrative and organizational practices.

Guidelines: The institution has demonstrated institutional commitment to the principles enunciated in the Equity and Inclusion Policy.

CFR 3.1 - The institution employs faculty and staff with substantial and continuing commitment to the institution. The faculty and staff are sufficient in number, professional qualification, and diversity to achieve the institution's educational objectives, establish and oversee academic policies, and ensure the integrity and continuity of its academic and co-curricular programs wherever and however delivered.

Guidelines: The institution has a faculty staffing plan that ensures that all faculty roles and responsibilities are fulfilled and includes a sufficient number of full-time faculty members with appropriate backgrounds by discipline and degree level.

CFR 3.5 - The institution provides access to information and technology resources sufficient in scope, quality, currency, and kind at physical sites and online, as appropriate, to support its academic offerings and the research and scholarship of its faculty, staff, and students. These information resources, services, and facilities are consistent with the institution's educational objectives and are aligned with student learning outcomes.

Guidelines: The institution provides training and support for faculty members who use technology in instruction. Institutions offering graduate programs have sufficient fiscal, physical, information, and technology resources and structures to sustain these programs and to create and maintain a graduate-level academic culture.

Focus Area 3 – Inclusion and Diversity

"Continue inclusion and diversity efforts that are informed by best practices and assessment data on recruitment, onboarding, and retention of faculty, staff, and students."

Also see: WSCUC Criteria for Review 3.1

CFR 3.1 - The institution employs faculty and staff with substantial and continuing commitment to the institution. The faculty and staff are sufficient in number, professional qualification, and diversity to achieve the institution's educational objectives, establish and oversee academic policies, and ensure the integrity and continuity of its academic and co-curricular programs wherever and however delivered.

Guidelines: The institution has a faculty staffing plan that ensures that all faculty roles and responsibilities are fulfilled and includes a sufficient number of full-time faculty members with appropriate backgrounds by discipline and degree level.

Focus Area 4 – Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan

"Publish a vision, mission, and strategic plan that is aligned with the Education for Seapower Strategy (E4S) with institutional goals and measures of performance and effectiveness to be used to allocate resources and guide future planning."

Also see: WSCUC Criteria for Review 1.1

CFR 1.1 - The institution's formally approved statements of purpose are appropriate for an institution of higher education and clearly define its essential values and character and ways in which it contributes to the public good.

Guidelines: The institution has a published mission statement that clearly describes its purposes. The institution's purposes fall within recognized academic areas and/or disciplines.