



August 5, 2026

Dr. Richard Bailey
President
Southern Oregon University
1250 Siskiyou Boulevard
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear President Bailey:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on July 7-10, 2026, concerning the Spring 2026 Special Report (Receipt of Unsolicited Information) of Southern Oregon University.

Accreditation

Issue Sanction of Probation

Recommendations Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations is an area where Southern Oregon University is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, the Commission requires that Southern Oregon University take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved within the prescribed four-year period, no later than August 5, 2030.

The Commission recommends that Southern Oregon University:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Special Report - Implement a financial plan with appropriate contingencies and provide evidence of meaningful progress towards achieving the objectives of that plan leading to the reversal of the institution's structural deficit and demonstrating long-term financial stability and sustainability. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.1; 2.E.2; ER 19)

Probation

Because of the significant financial issues at the institution, the Commission has issued the sanction of Probation, as stated in NWCCU's Accreditation Actions Policy:

NWCCU may place an institution on Probation and notes its Accreditation is in jeopardy when it does not appear to be in compliance with Standards for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements, Policies, or applicable federal regulations, and there is evidence non-compliance is sufficiently serious, extensive, or substantial, that it raises concern about: quality of student learning experience; capacity to make appropriate improvements within a short period of time; capacity to sustain itself in the long term such that a teach-out plan is required; or information collected through monitoring activities suggests there are serious concerns related to student achievement, viability and capacity, or financial health.

As a requirement of the Probation sanction, the institution will submit an Ad Hoc Review with a Visit in Fall 2027 demonstrating the efforts the institution has made to come into compliance with identified NWCCU Standards for Accreditation (34 CFR 602.20(a)(2)). The institution will also submit a Financial Resources Review in Spring 2027.

The institution must also develop teach-out plans, following the Procedures to Close a Program, Additional Location, Branch Campus, or Institution Policy. As noted in the Policy, "per Federal Regulation 34 CFR

602.24(c)(3), a teach-out plan must include (1) a list of currently enrolled students, (2) a list of academic programs offered by the institution, and (3) the names of other institutions that offer similar programs and that could potentially enter into a teach-out agreement with the institution.”

The teach-out plan, including these requirements, must be submitted to NWCCU within 60 days from receipt of this letter.

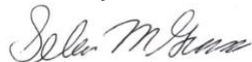
In compliance with NWCCU’s Public Disclosures by Institutions Policy and per Federal Regulation 34 CFR 602.26(b), the institution must notify current and prospective students and display an indicator of the sanction and non-compliance on its website within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of this letter.

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2026
 - Recommendation 4: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Special Report
- Financial Resources Review Spring 2027
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2028 (delayed from Fall 2026; combined with previously scheduled Fall 2028 Ad Hoc Report with Visit)
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 5: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2029
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2030

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Dr. Ed Harri, at eharri@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Selena M. Grace

President

cc: Dr. Dan DeNeui, Associate Provost
Ms. Sheila Clough, Chair, Board of Trustees, Southern Oregon University
Mr. Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission