

# ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

## Overview

Accreditation is a process of external review used by the higher education community to assure quality & promote ongoing improvement. Accrediting agencies are private, non-profit organizations whose members are the colleges & universities themselves.

Accreditation enables:

- Credits from one accredited university to transfer to another accredited university
- Universities to use federal grant funds & federal student aid

Senate Bill 7044 requires Florida public postsecondary institutions to change accrediting agencies & requires the Board of Governors to determine the accrediting agencies best suited for the state universities by September 1, 2022.

This series of documents will cover essential background information about accreditation & review the following key areas across the six major accrediting agencies, listed below.

This document focuses on background information & governance.

Background

Governance

Standards  
(Forthcoming)

Process  
(Forthcoming)

Costs  
(Forthcoming)

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Western Association of Schools & Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges & Universities (WSCUC or WASC)

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- Senate Bill 7044

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- Overview

# State University System of Florida

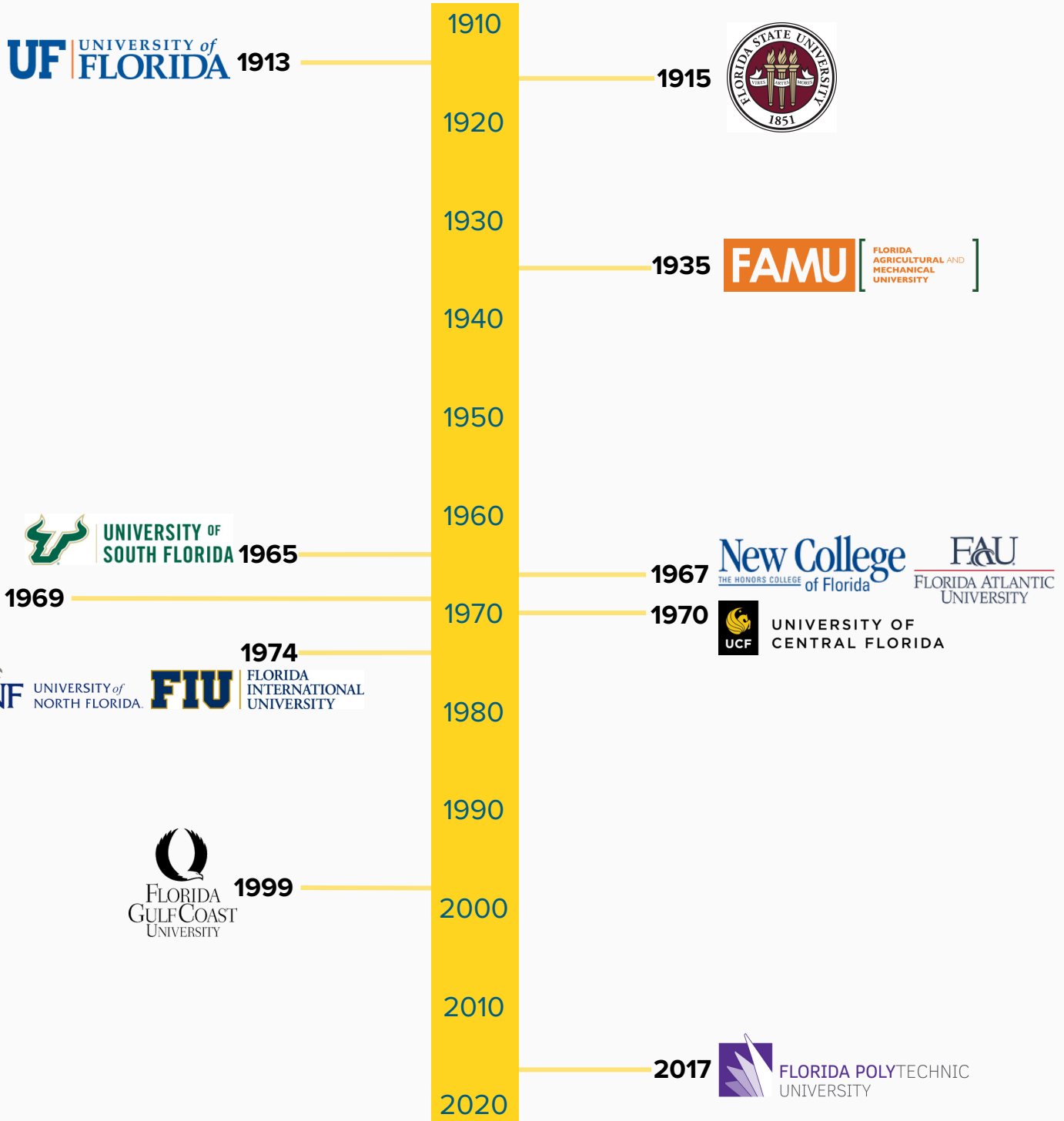
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June 13, 2022

## Initial Accreditation



- Florida public universities are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), established in 1895
- This accreditation status allows course credits from Florida public universities to transfer to other accredited universities, enables distribution of federal student aid funds to students, & permits access to federal grant funds





- The Board of Governors must identify the accrediting agencies best suited for state's public universities
- Florida's public postsecondary institutions must change their current accreditor
  - UCF & POLY initiate a change in 2023
  - FAMU, FAU, FSU, & UF must initiate a change in 2025

Senate Bill 7044 establishes section 1008.47, Florida Statutes, Postsecondary Education Institution Accreditation, which requires the State University System & the Florida College System institutions to change accreditors.

## Board of Governors

- The Board of Governors must identify the accrediting agencies best suited for the state universities by September 1, 2022

## Public Postsecondary Institutions

- Florida's public postsecondary education institutions must do the following.
  - Not be accredited by the same accrediting agency for consecutive accreditation cycles
  - Obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency identified by the Board of Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable
  - Select a different accrediting agency following the next affirmation or fifth year review date\*
  - Submit quarterly progress reports to the Board of Governors

## Additional Information

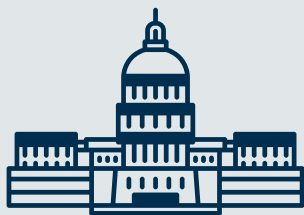
- The new law provides a cause of action for an institution impacted by retaliatory action by the accreditor, including liquidated damages
- Law will sunset on December 31, 2032

Institution	Next Reaffirmation/Fifth Year Review
POLY	2022
UCF	2022
FAMU	2024
FAU	2024
FSU	2024
UF	2024
FGCU	2025
UNF	2025
USF	2025
UWF	2025
NCF	2026
FIU	2027

\*Under certain circumstances, an institution may remain with its current agency.

# Federal Requirements

## Recognition of Accrediting Agencies



- Agencies recognized to accredit institutions by the U.S. Department of Education must follow certain criteria
  - Ensure they can provide a quality education
  - Help facilitate the smooth transfer of credits among colleges & universities
  - Promote confidence to private sector employers who hire their graduates
- Institutions accredited by recognized agencies may distribute federal student aid & be eligible for federal grants

## Requirements for Agency Accreditation Standards

Agencies that accredit institutions must consider the following information when developing accreditation standards

- Student achievement
- Curricula
- Faculty
- Facilities, equipment, & supplies
- Fiscal & administrative capacity
- Student support services
- Recruiting & admissions practices
- Academic calendars, catalogs, publications, grading, & advertising
- Student complaints
- Program length\*
- Degree or credential objectives\*
- Compliance with program responsibilities under Title IV of the Higher Education Act\*\*
- Preaccreditation standards
  - Related to the accreditation standards
  - Five-year limit on preaccreditation status

## Requirements for Agency Monitoring & Reevaluation of Accredited Institutions

Agencies that accredit institutions must monitor & reevaluate institutions, collect reports, & track institutional growth

- Reevaluate institutions regularly
- Monitor & evaluate to identify issues
- Collect periodic reports & key indicators of performance
  - Fiscal
  - Student achievement
  - Additional reports
- Monitor institutional growth
- Collect annual head-count enrollment data
- Monitor program growth at institutions experiencing significant enrollment growth

## Requirements for Agency Internal Review of Accreditation Standards

Agencies that accredit institutions must internally review agency accreditation standards

- Comprehensive
- Occur at regular intervals or on an ongoing basis
- Examine standards separately & as a whole
- Involve all constituencies
- Allow meaningful input from constituents
- Before finalizing changes
  - Provide notice to relevant constituencies
  - Allow constituencies to comment
  - Review & respond to any comments

\*This does not apply if none of the institutions the agency accredits participate in any Title IV Higher Education Act programs or if the agency only accredits programs within institutions accredited by a recognized institutional accrediting agency.

\*\*This does not apply if the institution does not participate in any Title IV Higher Education Act programs.

# Accrediting Agency Types

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## National & Regional Accrediting Agencies



- The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) currently recognizes both regional & national accrediting agencies as "institutional" accreditors
- Regional accreditors accredit institutions comparable to those in the State University System

### Formerly Regional Accrediting Agencies

### Formerly National Accrediting Agencies

#### Scope

Majority are public & non-profit private

Majority are for-profit

#### Member Institutions

Focus on comprehensive degree-granting institutions (including all AAU & US News & World Report Top 100 public institutions)

Focus on trade & vocational schools, career programs, faith-based institutions, & online colleges

#### Credit Transfers

Credits widely accepted

Credits not widely accepted

#### # of Agencies Recognized by the USDOE

6

20

#### Accrediting Agencies Recognized by the USDOE

##### SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITORS

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Western Association of Schools & Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges & Universities (WSCUC)

##### EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL ACCREDITORS

- Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges
- Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training
- Council on Occupational Education
- Association for Biblical Higher Education, Commission on Accreditation
- Association of Institutions of Jewish Studies
- National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation
- Distance Education Accrediting Commission



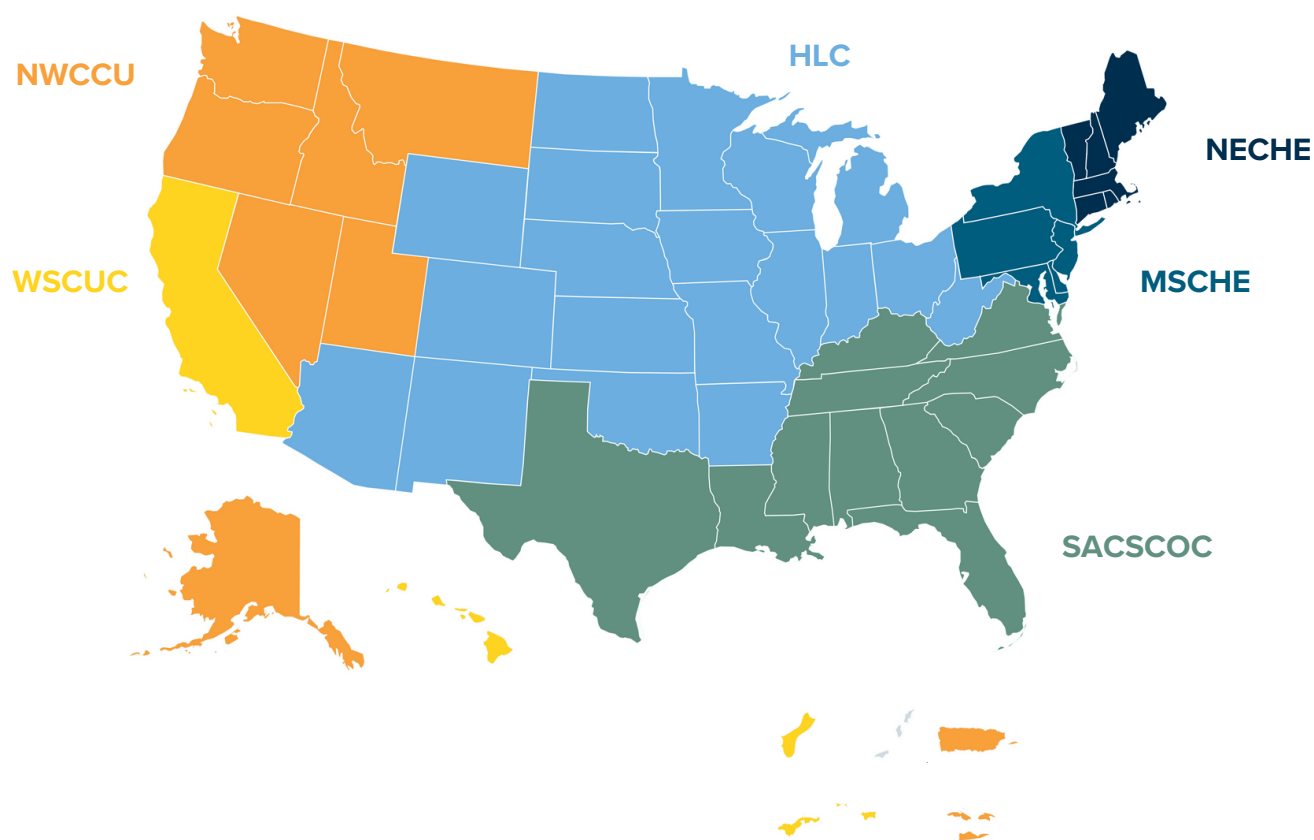
# Accrediting Agency Types

## Regional Accrediting Agencies



- Regional accrediting agencies historically served specific regions of the country
- As of July 2020, accreditors are allowed to approve institutions outside their traditional regional boundaries
- Most accrediting agencies require reaffirmation after 10 years

## Traditional Regional Accrediting Agency Boundaries (Pre-2020)



Agency Processes	SACSCOC	HLC	MSCHE	NECHE	NWCCU	WSCUC
Accreditation Cycle	10 Years	10 Years	8 Years	10 Years	7 Years	10 Years
Mid-Point Review	5th Year	4th Year*	4th Year	5th Year	3rd Year	Not available
Reaffirmation for Initial Membership	5 Years Reaffirmation	Reaffirmation twice within first 10 Years	Not available	5 Years Reaffirmation	5 Years Self-review & peer review	6 Years Reaffirmation

\*HLC offers two pathways to accreditation: Standard Pathway & Open Pathway. The Standard Pathway includes a comprehensive evaluation in year 4. The Open Pathway includes an assurance review in year 4 & a quality initiative in years 5-9.

Source: Map from the Council of Higher Education Accreditation



# Member Institutions

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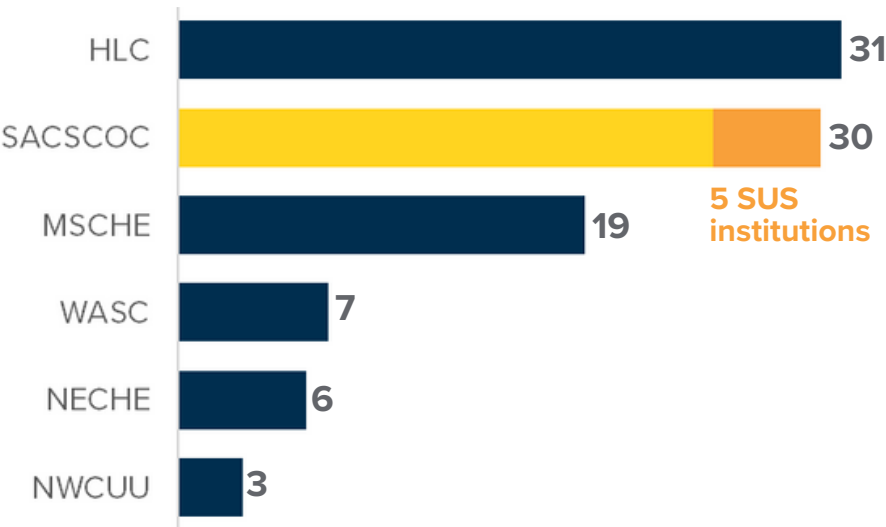
June 13, 2022

## Regional Accrediting Agencies

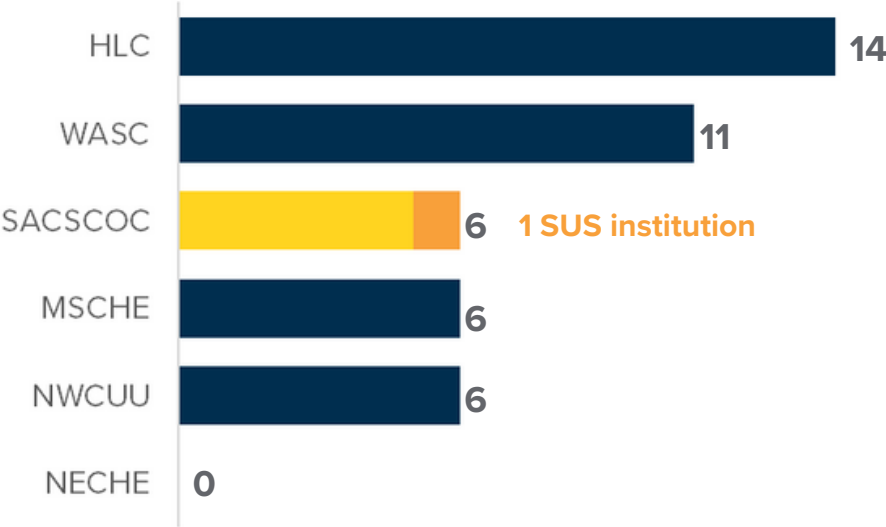


- All public universities on the U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities list are accredited by regional accrediting agencies
- All public universities within the Association of American Universities (AAU) are accredited by regional accrediting agencies

**Number of Member Institutions in the  
U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities\***



**Number of Public Member Institutions in the AAU\***



\*The Florida SUS Institutions in the U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities list are University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, & Florida International University. The Florida SUS Institution in the AAU is University of Florida.

## Board Composition



### Federal Requirements for Board Membership Agencies Accrediting Institutions

- Academic & administrative personnel
- Public representatives

### Public University Representation

- WSCUC & NWCCU have the highest percentage of Board representatives from public universities

Key

Public  
Universities

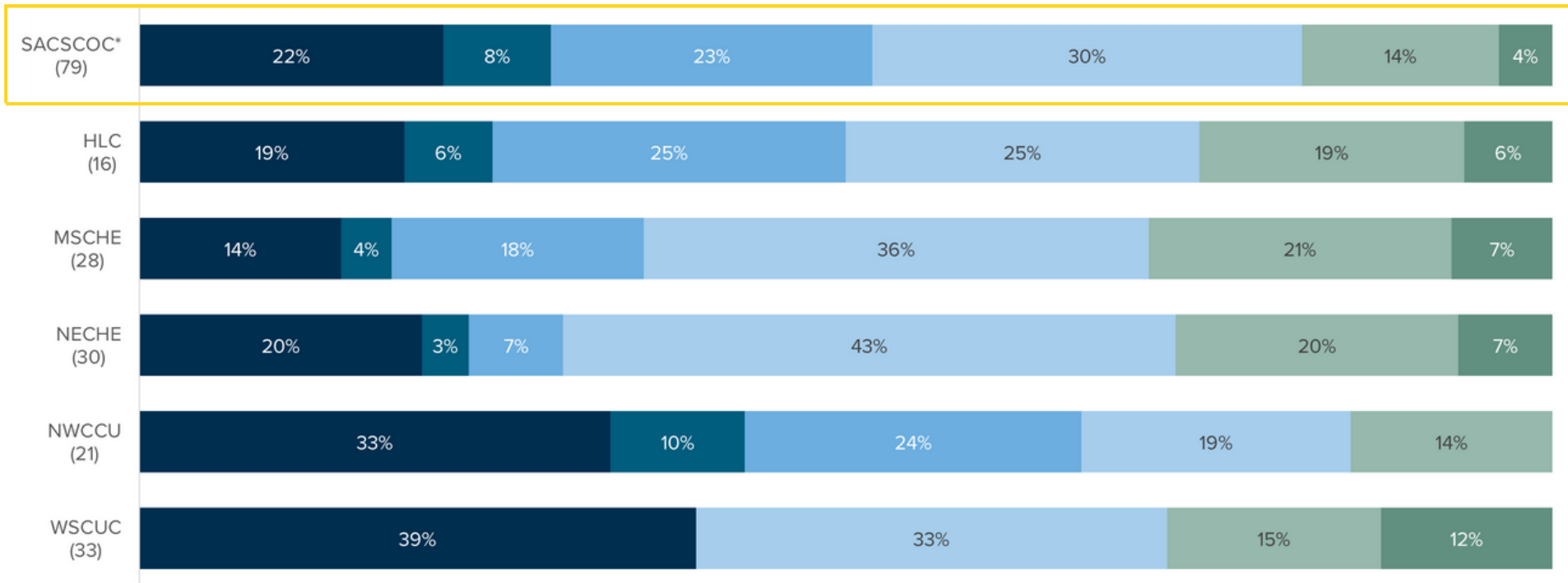
Public  
Colleges

Community &  
Technical Colleges

Private  
Institutions

Public  
Members

Other  
Representatives



\*Information was obtained from the SACSCOC website. According to SACSCOC Standing Rules, the Board must consist of 33 individuals connected with institutions offering undergraduate & graduate programs or only graduate programs (2 from each state), 22 individuals connected with institutions offering only undergraduate programs (1 from each state), 10 academics connected or employed by a member institution in the geographical territory of SACSCOC, 1 individual representing international member institutions, & 11 individuals representing the public.





- Each of the 11 states accredited by SACSCOC have a delegation of representatives on the board
- The Florida delegates consist of 7 members & include:
  - 3 public college representatives
  - 1 public university representative
  - 2 private institution representatives
  - 1 public member

### SACSCOC Florida Delegation

Representative	Count	Institution
Public Universities	1	University of Central Florida
Public Colleges	3	Gateway College North Florida College Northwest Florida State College
Private Institutions	2	Florida Institute of Technology Webber International University (Chair of State Delegation)
Public Members	1	Florida State Senator Anitere Flores

## Board Functions



### Common Board Characteristics



Most have 3-year term limits



All require at least one annual meeting



All may call special meetings

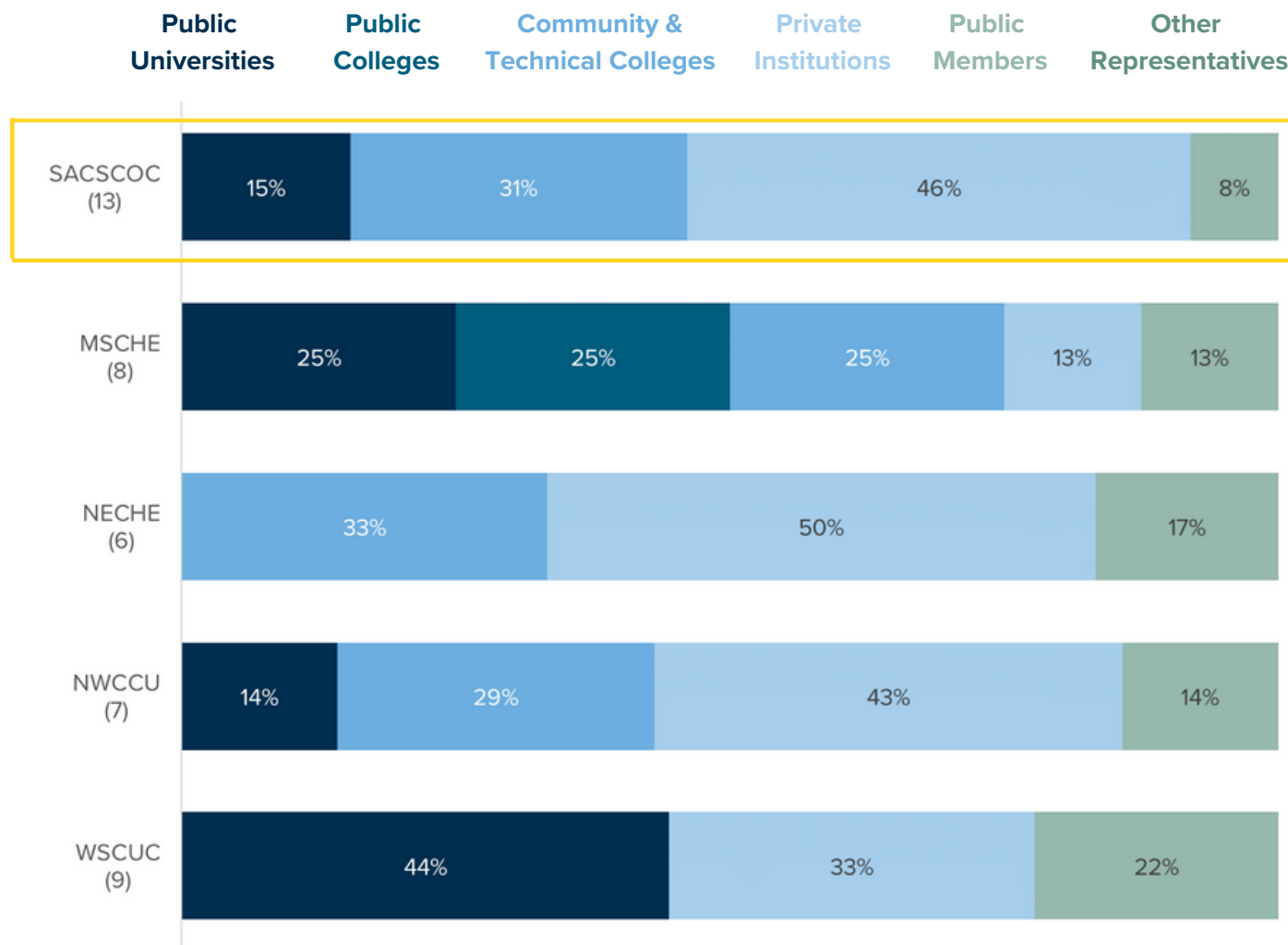
	SACSCOC	HLC	MSCHE	NECHE	NWCCU	WSCUC
<b>Term Limits of Board Members</b>	<b>3 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degree-granting institution representatives' terms end annually. After two successive terms, they cannot serve for 3 years after their term</li> <li>Public representatives can serve one 3 year term &amp; cannot serve for 3 years after their term</li> <li>At large representatives for international institutions cannot serve for 3 years after their term</li> </ul>	<b>4 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can extend terms for 2 years</li> <li>Cannot serve more than 12 years</li> </ul>	<b>3 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot serve for more than two consecutive 3 year terms</li> <li>Can serve additional 3 year terms after a one year absence</li> </ul>	<b>3 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot serve more than two consecutive 3 year terms</li> </ul>	<b>3 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot serve more than two consecutive 3 year terms</li> </ul>	<b>3 years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot serve more than one additional 3 year term</li> </ul>
<b>Required Board Meetings per Year</b>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special meetings may be called</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special meetings may be called</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special meetings may be called</li> </ul>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 business or executive meetings</li> <li>2 business meetings</li> <li>Special meetings may be called</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special meetings may be called</li> </ul>





### Executive Councils of Accrediting Agencies

- Executive council members are a subset of board members that act on behalf of the board between meetings
- For all regional accrediting agencies, the executive council or committee members must consist of board members



Note: Information on HLC's Executive Council composition is forthcoming.

## President Selection & Powers\*



### Leadership Selection

- The President is selected & evaluated by either the Board or the Executive Committee

Presidential Processes	SACSCOC	HLC	MSCHE	NECHE	NWCCU	WSCUC
<b>Selection Body</b>	Executive Council	Board of Trustees	Executive Committee	Not available	Board of Commissioners	Nominated by Executive Committee, Chosen by the Board of Commissioners
<b>Annual Evaluation Conducted by</b>	Executive Council	Board of Trustees	Executive Committee	Not available	Board chair	Executive Committee
<b>Presidential Termination Authority</b>	Not available	Board of Trustees	Executive Committee	Not available	Board can terminate with or without cause	Not available
<b>Presidential Powers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervise &amp; direct management &amp; operation of the corporation</li> <li>Make all policy decisions between Board meetings</li> <li>Supervise employees between Board meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage activities</li> <li>Employ &amp; terminate staff</li> <li>Provide leadership</li> <li>Execute documents on behalf of the Board that are consistent with Board direction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day-to-day managerial responsibility</li> <li>Employ &amp; terminates staff</li> <li>Execute &amp; acknowledge contracts &amp; other instruments on behalf of the Commission</li> </ul>	Not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ &amp; terminates staff</li> <li>Manages activities</li> <li>Provide leadership</li> <li>Execute documents on behalf of the Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervise, direct, &amp; control affairs, property, &amp; staff</li> <li>General powers, duties, &amp; authorities vested the chief executive office</li> <li>Manage operations consistent with financial plan or operating budget from Board</li> </ul>

\*President & chief executive officer are used interchangeably



# Higher Learning Commission



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:** 14  
**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 31



### Board Member Composition

**16 total members serving 4-year terms\***

- 3 Public Universities
- 1 Public College
- 4 Community & Technical Colleges
- 4 Private Institutions
- 3 Public Members
- 1 Other Member (tribal land-grant art college)



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 5 years after initial membership, 10 years thereafter; Mid-point review in year 4  
**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Yes  
**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** Regularly

## Overview

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation that was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the United States. In its [institution directory](#), HLC lists members in 19 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, & Wyoming. HLC is governed by a [16-member](#) Board of Trustees elected by the membership & administered by a president selected by & accountable to that Board.

## Accelerated Process for Initial Accreditation

An institution may be eligible to seek accreditation with HLC through the Accelerated Process for Initial Accreditation if it meets certain requirements, including being currently accredited by a historically regional accrediting agency or a state entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an institutional accreditor of degree-granting institutions of higher education. The institution must also have no history of being placed on sanction, show-cause order, or other similar negative action by its accreditor for at least the past 10 years, & must meet other requirements. The [process](#) allows the institution to apply for initial accreditation with HLC on an accelerated timeline, without serving a period of Candidacy.

\*Board members have the option to extend subsequent terms by two years

# Higher Learning Commission (continued)

**DRAFT**  
June 13, 2022

■ HLC accredits the following AAU Universities:

## PUBLIC

- Indiana University
- Iowa State University
- Michigan State University
- Ohio State University
- Purdue University
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado
- University of Illinois
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Wisconsin

## PRIVATE

- Case Western Reserve University
- Northwestern University
- University of Chicago
- Washington University-St. Louis

■ HLC accredits 5 of the U.S. News & World Report TOP 20 public universities:

- University of Michigan
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Illinois
- Ohio State University
- Purdue University

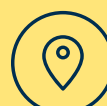
## HLC President - Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley



President & Executive  
Leadership Team



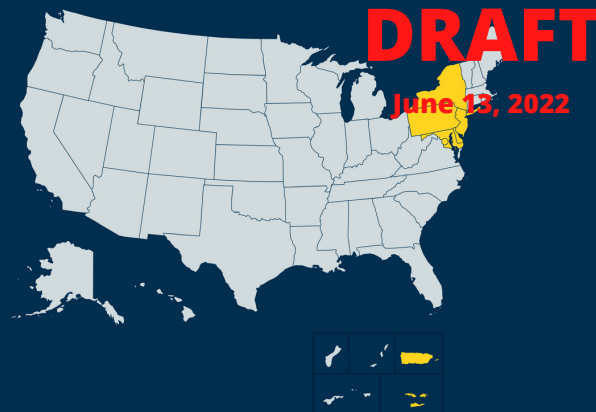
HLC Website



Home Office:  
Chicago, Illinois



# Middle States Commission on Higher Education



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:**6

**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 19



### Board Member Composition

**28 total members serving 3-year terms**

- 4 Public Universities
- 10 Private Institutions
- 1 Public College
- 6 Public Members
- 5 Community & Technical Colleges
- 2 Other Members (public conservatory & federal service academy )



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 8 years; Mid-point review in year 4

**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Not available

**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** At least once every ten years

## Overview

The Mid-Atlantic Region Commission on Higher Education, doing business as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), was formally incorporated under Pennsylvania Commonwealth law in 2013. MSCHE conducts accreditation activities for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, & any other geographic areas in which the Commission elects to conduct accrediting activities, including the evaluation of distance education & correspondence education programs offered at those institutions. MSCHE accredits institutions across the United States as well as globally.

The board (also known as the commission) consists of 28 members that conduct business in all states, except North Dakota, South Dakota, & Kentucky, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, & the District of Columbia.

Currently, MSCHE accredits Ana G. Mendez University (AGMU), the largest private university in Puerto Rico, which has three locations in Orlando, Miami, & Tampa.

# Middle States Commission on Higher Education (continued)

**DRAFT**

June 13, 2022

■ MSCHE accredits the following AAU Universities:

## PUBLIC

- Penn State University
- Rutgers University
- Stony Brook University
- University of Buffalo
- University of Maryland
- University of Pittsburgh

## PRIVATE

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- Colgate University
- The John Hopkins University
- New York University
- Princeton University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Rochester

■ MSCHE accredits two of the U.S. News & World Report TOP 20 public universities:

- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Maryland

## President of the Commission - Dr. Heather Perfetti



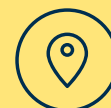
[hperfetti@msche.org](mailto:hperfetti@msche.org)



267-284-5026



[MSCHE Website](#)



Main Office:  
Wilmington,  
Delaware

2022 MSCHE Annual Conference – December 7-9, 2022 – Philadelphia, PA



# New England Commission on Higher Education



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:** 0  
**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 6



### Board Member Composition

#### 30 total members serving 3-year terms

- 6 Public Universities
- 13 Private Institutions
- 1 Public College
- 6 Public Members
- 2 Community & Technical Colleges
- 2 Other Members (2 system-level members)



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 5 years after initial membership, 10 years thereafter; Mid-point review in year 5  
**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Not identified  
**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** Not identified

## Overview

New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) accredits public & private community colleges, colleges, and universities. NECHE members are over 200 degree-granting postsecondary educational institutions offering higher education & located inside or outside the United States, including, but not limited to, the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, & Vermont.

The board (known as the Commission) comprises at least 27 persons elected by the member colleges & universities for no more than two consecutive three-year terms. At least one in seven members is a representative of the public interest, with the remainder being faculty, senior administrators, & trustees from member institutions.

# New England Commission on Higher Education (continued)

**DRAFT**

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■ NECHE accredits the following AAU universities. ALL are private institutions:

## PRIVATE

- Boston University (2012)
- Brandeis University (1985)
- Brown University (1933)
- Dartmouth College (2019)
- Harvard University (1900)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1934)
- Tufts University (2021)
- Yale University (1900)

■ NECHE does not accredit any of the US News & World Report TOP 20 public universities

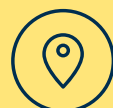
## President of the Commission - Dr. Lawrence Schall



lschall@neche.org



781-425-7714



Main Office:  
Burlington, Massachusetts

# Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:** 3

**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 6



### Board Member Composition

**21 total members serving 3-year terms**

- 7 Public Universities
- 2 Public College
- 5 Community & Technical Colleges
- 4 Private Institutions
- 3 Public Members
- 0 Other Member



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 7 years; mid-cycle review in year 3. New accreditations require self-review & peer review within the first 5 years

**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Not identified

**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** Once every 8 years

## Overview

The Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (NWCCU) is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation & accredits over 160 public & private institutions of higher education in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, & British Columbia, along with other domestic & international geographic areas.

The board (known as the Commission) as a decision-making body consists of up to 26 Commissioners. Commissioners are elected for staggered three-year terms & serve without compensation. A majority of the Commissioners represent institutions accredited by the Commission with consideration given to diversity of institutions & geographical distribution, including at least one person from the region's tribal colleges. One-seventh of the commissioners must be persons representing the general public.

# Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (continued)

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■ NWCCU accredits the following AAU Universities:

## PUBLIC

- University of Oregon
- University of Utah
- University of Washington

■ NWCCU accredits one of the U.S. News & World Report TOP 20 public universities:

- University of Washington

**Commission President: Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy**



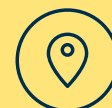
sonny@nwccu.org



425-558-4224



NWCCU  
Website  
& Staff



Main Office:  
Redmond,  
Washington

NWCCU Annual Conference: November 2-4, 2022 – Seattle, Washington





# Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges

**DRAFT**

June 13, 2022



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:** 6  
**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 30



### Board Member Composition

#### 79 total members serving 3-year terms\*

- 17 Public Universities
- 24 Private Institutions
- 6 Public Colleges
- 11 Public Members
- 18 Community & Technical Colleges
- 3 Other Members (Catholic seminary, research institute, Higher education commission)



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 5 years after initial membership, 10 years thereafter; Mid-point review in year 5  
**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Not identified  
**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** Every 5 years

## Overview

The Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accredits degree-granting institutions of higher education. SACSCOC serves as the regional body for accreditation in eleven southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, & Virginia. SACSCOC also accredits international institutions.

SACSCOC is comprised of four primary units with representatives from each state who perform certain functions for the agency: the College Delegate Assembly, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the Executive Council, the Committees on Compliance and Reports, & the Appeals Committee. The Board of Trustees has 79 members elected by the College Delegate Assembly, consisting primarily of administrators & faculty from member institutions & 11 public members from outside the academe.\* The Board of Trustees implements the accreditation process. The Executive Council is the executive arm of the Board of Trustees, with 13 members, including one representative from each state, a public member, & the Chair. The Executive Council is primarily responsible for interpreting Commission policy & procedure.

\*Information was obtained from the SACSCOC website. According to SACSCOC Standing Rules, the Board must consist of 33 individuals connected with institutions offering undergraduate & graduate programs or only graduate programs (2 from each state), 22 individuals connected with institutions offering only undergraduate programs (1 from each state), 10 academics connected or employed by a member institution in the geographical territory of SACSCOC, 1 individual representing international member institutions, & 11 individuals representing the public.



# Southern Association of Colleges & Schools

## Commission on Colleges (continued)

SACSCOC accredits the following AAU universities:

### PUBLIC

- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Texas A&M University
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of Florida
- University of Virginia

### PRIVATE

- Duke University
- Rice University
- Tulane University
- Vanderbilt University

SACSCOC accredits eight of the U.S. News & World Report TOP 20 public universities:

- University of Virginia
- University of Florida
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- The University of Texas at Austin
- William & Mary
- University of Georgia
- Florida State University

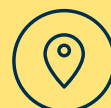
**President of the Commission - Dr. Belle S. Wheelan**



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Main Office:  
Decatur, Georgia

# Western Senior College & University Commission



## Agency Highlights



### Member Institutions

**Public AAU Institutions:** 7

**U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities:** 11



### Board Member Composition

**33 total members serving 3-year terms**

- 13 Public Universities
- 11 Private Institutions
- 0 Public College
- 5 Public Members
- 0 Community & Technical Colleges
- 4 Other Members (1 member of WASC community & junior; 3 retired from academe)



### Accreditation Processes

**Accreditation Cycle:** 6 years for initial membership; 10 years thereafter

**Includes Accelerated Accreditation Process:** Yes

**Frequency Agency Reviews Standards:** At least once every 10 years

## Overview

The WSCUC is a non-profit corporation that accredits over 200 public & private institutions & serves as the institutional accrediting agency for institutions that award the bachelor's or higher degrees.\* The Commission's historic region has consisted of the States of California & Hawaii, the territory of Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, & other areas of the Pacific as may apply to it for service.

The board (also known as the Commission) consists of 33 members serving 3-year terms. These members include institutional representatives such as presidents, provosts, deans, & faculty. In addition, the commission include public members such as educational effectiveness experts, former public officials, & people experienced in K-12 education. At large members of the commission allow for individuals who are not institutional representatives or public members to serve.

\*Until 2012, WASC was a single organization with three units. In 2012, the different units separated into three separate organizations that continue to share the WASC acronym as part of their name: the Accrediting Commission for Schools (ACS WASC), the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC), & the WASC Senior College & University Commission (WSCUC). These entities now use the same "WASC" acronym but are three separate 501(c)(3) organizations with independent scopes & governance structures.

# Western Senior College & University Commission (continued)

**DRAFT**  
June 13, 2022

■ WSCUC accredits the following AAU Universities:

## PUBLIC

- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz

## PRIVATE

- California Institute of Technology
- Stanford University
- University of Southern California

■ WSCUC accredits six of the U.S. News & World Report TOP 20 public universities:

- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Davis

**Commission President: Dr. Jamiene S. Studley**



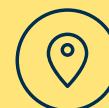
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WSCUC  
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Main Office:  
Alameda,  
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Next Commission Meeting: June 22-24, 2022