



March 3, 2025

Dr. Waded Cruzado
President
Montana State University - Bozeman
211 Montana Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear President Cruzado:

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 January 28-31, 2025, concerning the Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Montana State University - Bozeman.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Review - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Review - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Review - Fulfilled
- Finding Type 1: Fall 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled
- Finding Type 2: Fall 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends Montana State University - Bozeman for:

1. Its enthusiastic embrace of the institutional mission as a land-grant, open access institution, focused on serving the broad academic and workforce development needs of the entire state of Montana.
2. Its support and celebration of Native American culture through the collaboratively-designed, LEED-platinum certified American Indian Hall, the Paths to Student Well-being model, the accreditation of the Native American Studies program by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), extensive recruiting activities at tribal colleges, and faculty efforts to include indigenous content across the curriculum.
3. The rapid development of a process for program learning outcomes assessment, and robust tracking of student success metrics.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Montana State University - Bozeman:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Evaluate the systems of academic advising for all students in all programs at all locations. (2020 Standard(s) 2.G.6)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Establish and share widely a set of indicators for student achievement in the context of and in comparison with regional and national peer institutions. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2)
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Systematically implement their assessment process in order to evaluate the quality of learning in all its programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2027
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

- Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2030
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2031

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. Gita Bangera, at gbangera@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Jeff Fox
Interim President

cc: Dr. Tracy Dougher, Vice Provost for Curriculum, Assessment, and Accreditation
Mr. Todd Buchanan, Chair
Ms. Shannon Beets, Assistant Dean, Institutional Assessment and Accreditation, University of Nevada, Reno
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System