

Eligibility Requirements for Candidates for Accreditation

Authority

We have formal authority from the State of Utah to grant degrees. The Utah System of Higher Education includes the State Board of Regents and 10 public colleges and universities. The State Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees and other university administrators govern WSU as shown in Utah Code – Title 53B – State System of Higher Education – Chapter 01 -- Governance, Powers, Rights & Responsibilities (www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE53B/53B01.htm).

Mission and Goals

Our mission is determined by Board of Regents policy (see www.utahsbr.edu/policy/r312.htm). This policy indicates that, as a master's university, WSU transmits knowledge and skills through associate and baccalaureate degrees, and selected graduate programs, as well as through selected services. We serve as both a community college and a university in Northern Utah. Our mission statement is publicly available in our catalog and at weber.edu/generalinfo/WSUprofile.htm. It includes three broad areas of focus: high-quality instructional programs, public service, and assessment and accountability. Our emphasis is on teaching, scholarly/creative efforts, and community service, and our scholarly/creative efforts are complementary to our teaching role. We devote substantially all of our gross income to support our mission and educational goals.

Institutional Integrity

Our mission and values statements and our policies make explicit our support for integrity and honesty. (Weber State University Catalog, weber.edu/generalinfo/WSUprofile.htm) We

are committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination (Weber State University Policies and Procedures Manual, documents.weber.edu/ppm/). Ethical behavior of the faculty, staff, administrators, and board members is guided by a variety of university policies, state and federal laws, and professional codes of ethics. These policies are administered consistently with our mission and purpose.

Governing Board

In accordance with the Utah Higher Education Act of 1969, the Board of Regents and our Board of Trustees govern WSU. The Board of Regents consists of 18 members – 15 Utah resident citizens appointed by the Governor, one member selected by the governor from nominations by the Utah Council of Student Body Presidents, and two non-voting members appointed from the State Board of Education. The Board of Trustees has 10 voting members: eight appointed by the governor, the president of the alumni association, and the president of the student association. A majority of these members have no contractual, employment, or personal financial interest in WSU.

Chief Executive Officer

Our president is appointed by the Board of Regents, has a full-time appointment, and is regularly evaluated by the Board of Regents to determine and facilitate her effectiveness. The president serves as the executive officer and is the official medium of communication between the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees, the university faculty, and the students. The president, with the assistance of the Board of Trustees, is responsible for (1) the property, both personal and real; and (2) the education, safety and welfare, for the good of education in the state and his/her respective institution, of all persons admitted and enrolled, employed or otherwise entering its premises, under such rules and regulations as the institution establishes.

Administration

Our president is supported by an adequate and efficient administrative staff. This staff is organized to advise her, assure that routine business is handled efficiently, see that the various functions are coordinated among the various colleges and other areas, and provide university-wide leadership. We are organized into five administrative divisions: Academic



"Act as if it were impossible to fail."
— James K. Van Fleet

Affairs, Administrative Services, Information Technology, Student Affairs, and University Relations. This structure ensures that we achieve our mission and meet our stated goals.

Faculty

We maintain a core of full-time faculty members who teach 74% of our courses. These faculty are highly qualified in each discipline or program in which we offer major academic work, and this number is sufficient to allow us to achieve our mission and goals. Our faculty are involved in several committees within the Faculty Senate and in standing administrative committees, for policy making, academic planning, curriculum development and review, academic advising, and institutional governance.

We have a complex and overlapping system of full-time faculty evaluation, including a triennial review of post-tenured faculty, merit reviews, annual reviews, and tenure and promotion reviews. Our part-time faculty are evaluated with more decentralized procedures. The Utah Board of Regents policy specifies that full-time faculty teach at least 24 credit hours per academic year. Institutional support and resources for teaching and scholarship involve sabbatical and special leaves, the use of physical facilities, and funds from both internal and external sources.

Educational Program

WSU is a comprehensive, primarily undergraduate university with over 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs. This is the largest and most comprehensive offering of undergraduate programs in the State of Utah. Our programs are administered in accordance with our mission and goals, are based on fields of study that are recognized nationwide, and include library and information technology components. Program requirements vary according to the type of degree offered; for example, master's degree programs are more rigorous than undergraduate degree programs. We are well known for programs that include a high degree of interaction between faculty and students.

General Education and Related Instruction

We offer several types of undergraduate degrees; students graduating with A.A.S., A.S., A.A., B.S., B.A., B.F.A., B.M., B.M.E., and B.I.S. degrees must complete university-wide general education and other graduation requirements. With the exception of A.A.S. degrees, our programs require 36 credit hours of core and breadth general education courses, a three-credit-hour diversity course, six credit hours of scientific inquiry (for B.S. degrees only) and two years of foreign language (for B.A., B.M., and B.M.E. degrees). A.A.S. degrees require 18 credit hours of general education courses.

Library and Learning Resources

The Stewart Library provides a broad range of information resources and services in support of our mission and goals. Library resources and services are adequate to support the curricular offerings of all programs, whether offered on campus or through the internet. Our Information Technology Division supports students, alumni, faculty and staff by ensuring that they are able to securely and reliably access and update information,

Academic Freedom

We foster an environment that respects academic freedom for our entire academic community. All administrative officers, faculty, staff, and students are entitled to and free to exercise academic freedom. Our Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM 9-1) contains this statement: "Weber State University seeks to provide and sustain an environment conducive to sharing, extending and critically examining knowledge and values. Academic freedom in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge through all media is recognized as a right of all members of the faculty, whether of tenure or non-tenure status, of all administrative officers and of all students. Weber State University endorses the 1940 AAUP Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure."

Student Achievement

We identify and publish expected cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning outcomes related to major fields of study for each of our degree programs on our assessment web page programs.weber.edu/assessment. Through a system of direct and indirect methods, we systematically and regularly assess students to ensure that these outcomes are achieved.

Admissions

We publish and make available to students a current catalog (in print and online at www.documents.weber.edu/catalog) that describes our mission, admissions requirements and procedures, students' rights and responsibilities, academic regulations, degree completion requirements, and credit courses and descriptions. In accordance with our dual role as a community college and a university we admit students to a college or university tier based on their standardized test scores and GPAs.

Public Information

We publish accurate and current information in our catalog, in a variety of other publica-

tions, and on our web page (www.weber.edu). This information includes our mission statement and information about admissions, programs and courses, financial aid, library, academic and co-curricular resources, employment opportunities, news events, and athletics. It also includes cost and refund policies, student rights and responsibilities, and credentials of faculty and administration.

Financial Resources

We benefit from a stable funding base provided by state tax monies and tuition collections appropriated by the Utah State Legislature. This funding is not entirely sufficient to meet our mission and goals, and we have augmented our finances. We have well-established financial planning processes linked to our established mission and goals. The annual operating budget is balanced with an appropriate level of budgetary contingency. We have a minimum of long-term debt and short-term financing has been used sparingly.

Financial Accountability

The State Auditor's Office conducts or contracts our annual financial audit which covers all aspects of operations. As part of the financial audit, a management letter is prepared outlining any recommendations. We have received "unqualified audit opinions" from our independent financial auditors for more than ten years. Since 1994, there have been a minimal number of recommendations that can all be classified as minor in nature. The State Auditor's Office also conducts our NCAA athletics audit and the single audit of federal financial assistance. We maintain a very effective internal audit department that reports directly to the president, Board of Trustees, and the Utah State Board of Regents. In 2003, we established the trustee audit committee to strengthen our auditing procedures.

Institutional Effectiveness

We have systematically designed and implemented campus-wide assessment strategies

and planning procedures to assess how well we have achieved our mission and goals. The results of these assessment activities are published on our assessment web page, programs.weber.edu/assessment.

Operational Status

WSU is currently regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and has been since 1932.

Disclosure

We have disclosed and will continue to disclose to the Commission any and all information it needs to carry out its evaluation and accreditation functions.

Relationship with the Accreditation Commission

We accept the policies and standards of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and agree to comply with these standards and policies. We agree that the Commission may make known the nature of any action it takes regarding WSU including its status with the Commission.