

# College of Alameda

Accreditation Questions & Answers | June 30, 2015

## Is College of Alameda Accredited?

- **Yes.** College of Alameda is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (The Commission). The Commission's requirements can be found on the ACCJC website at: [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org) under Eligibility Requirements & Standards. The College continues to offer quality programs and services, course and program articulations continues, and special programs and services meet industry standards and regulations.

## What is Accreditation?

- Accreditation is a status granted to an educational institution that has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. Accreditation has two fundamental purposes: to assure the quality of the institution or program, and to assist in the improvement of the institution.
- The process of accreditation requires honest self-evaluation of the institution, backed by evidence, followed by an on-site visit by an evaluation team, and a subsequent review and decision.
- The Standards set requirements for quality that cover many aspects of the college, including: instruction, student support services, library and learning resources, physical environment, technology services, financial management, institutional governance, institutional integrity and honesty, and achievement of institutional mission.
- The Commission reviews the overall quality of each institution every six years. If an institution is found to need improvements, it may be required to undergo additional reviews and monitoring by the Commission.

## What is the Accreditation status of College of Alameda?

- Accredited - On Probation
- The Commission imposed Probation on College of Alameda when the Commission, at its June 3-5, 2015 meeting, reviewed the institution's adherence to the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies as part of a comprehensive review. **The institution remains accredited** during probation and is required to make improvements to address the Commission's findings.

## What does probation mean?

- Probation is imposed when an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies.

## What are examples of key findings?

- The College Self Evaluation Report was complete and included narrative responses on all ACCJC Standards. The ACCJC External Evaluation Report included several recommendations that can be broken into four themes
- Institutional Effectiveness: Research and Planning
  - Dialogue regarding Mission Statement & Mission & Goals should drive the institution
  - Revamp of integrated planning and budget allocation model
  - Need for consistent and current data & create research agenda
  - Participatory governance process evaluation & better communicate participatory governance recommendations

- Process to establish values and goals
- Delineation of Campus/District operations
- Develop, implement & assess a college-wide enrollment management plan
- Human Resources
  - Implement current employee performance evaluations cycle
  - Faculty evaluations to include review and assessment of SLOs
- Student Learning Outcomes
  - Assessment of Program Review process
  - Documentation of Student Learning & accelerate student improvement assessment
  - Documentation and assessment of student services
- Other
  - Data to NSLDS (National Student Loan Data System for Students)
  - Risk management assessment of institution
  - Submittal of Substantive change reports (DE & Science)

### What are the next steps for College of Alameda?

- College of Alameda will be monitored by the Commission and required to submit a Follow-Up Report to the Commission in October 2016.
- The Commission will conduct a team visit following the October 2016 report to assess the institution's compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies.
- The Commission will review both reports at its meeting in January 2017. If the Commission determines that College of Alameda has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies, the Commission may act to remove Probation.
- If the Commission determines that sufficient progress to demonstrate compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies has not been made, the Commission may take further action as permitted under the Commission's "Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions."
- The Commission policies can be found in the Accreditation Reference Handbook which is located on the ACCJC website at: [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org) under *Publications and Policies / All Commission Publications and Policies*.

### How is College of Alameda responding to ensure compliance with Accreditation Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies?

- Under new leadership, College of Alameda has developed the ***Blueprint for Excellence***. The Blueprint details specific responses to address the Commission's findings.
- The ***Blueprint for Excellence*** is available online at the College of Alameda website. It will be made available in August in hard copy from: the Offices of the President, Vice President of Instruction and Vice President of Student Services, the Academic Senate President, Classified Senate President and Director of Associated Students.
- College of Alameda is committed to addressing all findings and continuing the work already underway to support an organizational culture which meets and exceeds the Commission's Accreditation Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies.
- The Commission's findings indicate that *"The new President has stated a commitment to improved communications, transparency, cohesiveness, and accountability. This has been welcomed by the campus community who report that there is a marked improvement in college morale, and there is the sentiment that the administration is invested and that new ideas will be implemented."*