



Preparing for March 2016 Visit

Greetings faculty!

We are one year away from our Accreditation visit in **March 2016**. Last communication focused on the 2009 visiting team's recommendations for ELAC. This newsletter will look at the New Standards, current accreditation activities and how you can get involved.

New Standards

In June, 2015, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) adopted "New Standards". The four major categories remained the same:

- I. Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness and Integrity,
- II. Student Learning Programs and Support Services
- III. Resources
- IV. Leadership and Governance

However, there are subtle changes and some adjustments in the standards that differ from the 2002 standards. For example, the ACCJC is asking for colleges to set standards for student achievement. Much of this information can be found on the Student Success Scorecard maintained by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. However, we as a college are asked to set goals and discuss progress toward goals.

Student Learning Outcomes

It should be noted that the ACCJC standards have maintained an emphasis on Student Learning Outcomes. SLOs were adopted by the ACCJC in 2002 with the expectation that colleges would be in compliance by 2012.

ELAC was given recommendations in 2003 and 2009 to increase efforts regarding SLOs. Our 2012 midterm report self identified six areas related to SLO that needed improvement. At the same time ELAC is playing catch-up regarding SLOs, the ACCJC's expectations of college's progress in using SLO data in the decision-making process has advanced.

Thus we are under enormous pressure to comply with the standards. There is no time left. **Our goal is for 100% completion of course, program and institutional learning outcomes to be fully assessed with improvement plans by June 15, 2015.**

Dates to Remember

- March 9** – 3:15-4:30
Accreditation Steering Committee
- March 13**
Standard Rough Drafts Due
- March 30** – 1:30-3:00
Accreditation Committee of the Whole
- March 30**
Revisions for Shared Governance Handbook Due
- April 17**
Accreditation Basics Completion
- April 30**
Accreditation Dialog Day

The college has given incentives by paying department facilitators. However, these facilitators cannot do this job alone – they are supposed to assist the chairs and faculty with the process of assessing the outcomes and making meaning of the results. We thank them – and all of the faculty – who are working diligently towards helping the college meet its SLO goals.

We all need to work together to accomplish this goal.

Ways to get involved -

1. Complete the **Accreditation Basics** (accjc.org) – an online course. It takes about one hour to complete. Submit completion certificate to Brenda Chan by **April 17** to be entered in a drawing for an iPad. (Those who have already completed the training will earn a second chance in the raffle.)
2. Join an **Accreditation Standard Committee**. Contact one of us below.
3. Participate in **Dialog Days - April 30 12:10-1:30 G1 301 AB**. Find out the preliminary progress of the Self-Study Draft and provide your input.
4. Encourage your **committees** to:
 - a. Update their website.
 - b. Review the committee’s description in the Shared Governance Handbook.
 - c. Update any handbook created by your committee.
5. Review the **Shared Governance Handbook** and provide comments for improvement in writing to either of us below.
6. Complete your **SLOs**, Complete your **SLOs**, Complete your **SLOs**.

Any Questions? Comments? Your ideas are valued and welcomed,

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