SPRING 2012 Accreditation Newsletter

ELAC's Accreditation Status…
What's Happening

The Accreditation process provides a means for ELAC to continuously improve educational quality and grow to meet the changing needs of our students! ELAC has just reached the mid-point of the 6-year accreditation cycle.

Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Activities

- _Substantive Change Proposal for Distance Education Completed:_ In January 2012, ACCJC approved our latest proposal for offering programs online. To date, the Commission has approved 13 certificates and 21 degree programs.
- _Midterm Report Completed:_ During fall semester, a number of faculty and staff participated in the preparation of the **midterm report** in which we addressed the six recommendations issued by the Commission in their 2009 evaluation report on the validation of our Self Study. The ACCJC ruling on our report will not be known until June. At that time, the report will be posted on the Accreditation website.
- _Annual Reports Completed:_ Two **annual reports** to the Commission, available to the ELAC community upon request, were submitted in March 2012:
  - ✓ The _fiscal annual report_ verifies the financial health of the college.
  - ✓ The _general annual report_ addresses questions about the demographics of our students, the curriculum, and our SLO progress.
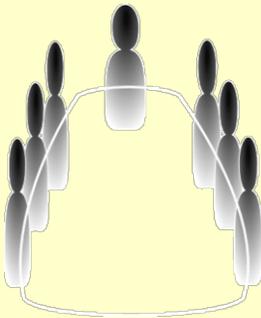
On the Horizon

Preparation of the _Self Evaluation of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness (formerly known as the College Self Study_): In the coming months, ARG will be developing a strategy for recruiting and training faculty and staff team members who will provide their expertise to the preparation of this report that begins in spring 2013. Give some thought to how you can contribute to the effort. All of your ideas are welcomed.

Important date:

March 15, 2015
Self Evaluation Report due to the Commission

Learn more:

View all topics related to accreditation and college planning at the ELAC accreditation website:

- _Shared Governance and Decision-making Policy Handbook_
- _College Strategic Plan_
- _Educational Master Plan_
- _Facilities Master Plan_
- _Technology Master Plan_

Online Accreditation Basics Course
Interested in learning more about the accreditation process?

Enroll in the online accreditation basics course. The course is intended for first-time evaluation team members, for those who are going to be involved in accreditation at their institutions and wish to learn more about the process, and for those who want to brush up on their understanding of the basic principles of accreditation. The two-hour course focuses on the purposes of accreditation, the process used to accredit institutions, and the particular Standards used by the ACCJC to measure the educational quality and institutional effectiveness.

You can access and register for the course on the ACCJC website (www.accjc.org) on the Events page under ACCJC Accreditation Training. The course can be paused at any time and resumed to fit your scheduling needs. Short quizzes will assess your progress through the course at regular intervals, and upon successful completion of an end-of-course exam (90% mastery), you will receive a certificate, which you can submit for FLEX credit.

> *Self evaluation is an excellent tool for promoting ongoing dialogue among faculty, staff, administrators, and students to improve our college!*

Do Your Part to Ensure That ELAC Reaches the ACCJC-Mandated Level of SLO Assessment Proficiency by Fall 2012

- Are SLOs and authentic assessments in place for all of your department's courses and programs? REMEMBER: Results of assessments are used for improvement in institution-wide practices.
- Are widespread department and institutional dialogue and decision-making about the results taking place?
- Do your students demonstrate awareness of the SLOs for courses and programs?

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