Accreditation Update

College of San Mateo

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Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)
Accreditation 101

• Regional Accredor
  • 6 regions, 7 accreditors
What is the Purpose of Accreditation?

• Why go through all this work?
  • Gatekeepers of federal financial aid
  • Assure quality to the public and students

• U.S. Higher Education – Commitment to Peer Review
  • Unique to U.S.
  • Uses academic inquiry to inform best practices for improvement
  • Criticisms
    • “Fox guarding the henhouse”
    • “Watchdog without any bite”
ACCJC Updates

• More effective, More responsive:
  • Dual purpose of compliance and improvement
    • College aligns to the standards vs. looking for deficiencies
    • Help the college, support the college, celebrate the college
  • Mission centered review

• US Department of Education staff and NACIQI recommendation to the department’s senior official:
  • Renew ACCJC’s recognition for five years
  • Issues and Problems: None
  • Approve expansion of scope: ACCJC can approve credentials “not to exceed the bachelor’s degree” (no limit on the number of bachelor’s degrees ACCJC can approve)
Formative/Summative Approach

• A “Formative/Summative” model for comprehensive reviews
  • The college’s self-study is submitted to the review team a semester prior to the site visit for the Team ISER Review (TIR)
  • During the TIR, peer review team conducts a formative evaluation:
    • Verifies compliance with many operational aspects, taking them “off the table” as not requiring onsite verification
    • Specifies areas where additional information is needed, or where the institution needs to further develop its processes, in anticipation of the site visit a semester later
    • Identifies focused “Core Inquiries” that will be pursued during the on-site visit
  • A smaller team (and/or a shorter visit schedule) conducts the Focused Site Visit, with the team report leading to summative findings
  • Endorsed in concept by the Commission January 2019; 3 single-institution pilots, then a district; Advisory Committee to guide development of details
Visual Representation of the Process

1. TEAM ISER REVIEW
2. CORE INQUIRIES
3. FOCUSED SITE VISIT
4. DRAFT TEAM REPORT
5. ERRORS OF FACT
6. FINAL TEAM REPORT
7. COMMISSION ACTION
Other Changes on the Horizon

• Leadership Transition (Spring 2020)
• Standards Review (2021)
Questions and Comments