What is Accreditation & Why Should I Care?

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Mt. SAC Faculty Flex Day
February 22, 2013

What do you know about Accreditation?
Which of the following is true of Accreditation?

A. It compares colleges to best practices in education.
B. It punishes colleges based upon audits.
C. It grades and ranks colleges based on standards.
D. It guarantees the quality of education to the federal government and the public.
E. I don’t know, ask Bill!
Who Participates In Accreditation Processes?

A. Faculty  
B. Administration  
C. Classified Staff  
D. Students  
E. All of the above

Overview

- Purpose of accreditation  
- Importance of accreditation  
- Your role in ongoing accreditation work  
- Your role in accreditation reporting  
- Mt. SAC accreditation next steps
“The ACCJC accreditation process verifies that Mt. SAC meets a minimum standard. As one of California’s premier community colleges, we are in the enviable position of generally exceeding the standards. Our previous work has resulted in our having a full six year accreditation and in fact we are being asked for advice from other colleges with regard to accreditation matters. Although the ACCJC standards continue to change, we have a college culture that can adapt to those changes.”

- Eric Kaljumagi
  President, Academic Senate

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National Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)
(Authorized by Higher Education Opportunity Act to review regional accrediting agencies)

US. Department of Education
(Grants recognition to regional accrediting agencies based on recommendation from NACIQI)

Regional Accrediting Agencies (7)
(Grant accreditations to schools and colleges)

U.S. Accreditation Structure
Commission for Community and Junior College (ACCJC)

- A commission within the regional accrediting agency, Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC)
- Accredits associate degree granting institutions
- Establishes *eligibility requirements, Accreditation Standards, commission policies,* and *procedures* to assess institutional quality

Our Accrediting Commission

Only accredited institutions qualify for financial aid (Title IV funds) and federal/state grants!

For Students
- Vital for international mobility
  - Transfer of credit
  - Legitimacy of degrees and qualifications

For the Public
- Assures legitimacy of institution and confidence in the quality of programs and student services
- Promotes accountability through ongoing external evaluation

What Accreditation Does
What % of 1st time, full-time students at Mt. SAC received financial aid in 2011?

A. 8%
B. 28%
C. 48%
D. 68%

$4,461 was the average grant amount per Mt. SAC student in 2011.

Accountability Measures

- Eradicate degree mills
- Taxpayers are demanding accountability for financial aid $$ spent on students
- Demand for documentation of student learning (outcomes)
  ✓ Student Success Act - ARCC/Scorecard
  ✓ Degrees - Obama
What Does It Mean If A College Gets A Negative Accreditation Report?

A. The college loses federal funding  
B. The college loses student financial aid  
C. The college loses the ability to transfer courses  
D. The college can no longer operate  
E. It depends on the negative report

Why Should I Care?

"The poorly run City College of San Francisco has eight months to prove it should stay in business, yet must make preparations for closure"...

Studets NEED Mt. Sac!!

"The team commends the college for excellent and innovative programs that recruit, orient, and prepare students for college success....."
FEAR NOT !!
We spend the majority of our time in Institutional “Follow-up... Ongoing, daily accreditation work !

Continuous Accreditation Process

Accreditation standards, California Education Code, and Title 5 regulations all expect faculty to take a leadership role in ensuring student success.

Broad Participation is Key
### Ongoing Work of Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard I: Institutional Mission &amp; Effectiveness</th>
<th>Standard II: Student Learning Programs &amp; Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Annual PIE Process</td>
<td>• Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use mission statement for planning &amp; decision-making</td>
<td>• Assessing &amp; evaluating SLOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic Senate</td>
<td>• Curriculum design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Committees (IEC, PAC)</td>
<td>• Counseling &amp; information literacy support</td>
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<td>• Support services</td>
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<tr>
<th>Standard III: Resources</th>
<th>Standard IV: Leadership &amp; Governance</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Hiring committees</td>
<td>• All Committee work</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facilities Advisory</td>
<td>• Academic Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information Technology Advisory Committee</td>
<td>• Faculty Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Professional Development committees</td>
<td>• Academic Mutual Agreement Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Budget Committee</td>
<td>• President’s Advisory Council</td>
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### What Standard Or Standards Should Faculty Be Involved In?

- A. Standard I
- B. Standard II
- C. Standard III
- D. Standard II and IV
- E. Standards I-IV
How does your work help the college meet the Accreditation Standards?

Your Role in Ongoing Accreditation Work

What Does Accreditation Verify?

Courses and programs are reviewed for usefulness and currency
Student pathways to success are reviewed
Budgeting, planning and resource allocation processes are examined

"I think the most important part of accreditation is the Self-Evaluation. The Self-Evaluation allows the program to compare itself to industry standards, set by our manufacturers, and experience a very positive systematic "tune-up." - Darrow Soares
What Role Do Faculty Play In The Accreditation Process?

A. Ongoing, daily work of teaching and learning
B. Assessing and evaluating SLOs to guide department planning (PIE)
C. Validating the accuracy of reports to the student perspective
D. Representation on committees
E. All of the above

Accreditation Reporting Cycle

Year 1
Commission Decision
Ongoing Accreditation Work
Annual Report

Years 4-6
Self-Evaluation Report Due
Peer Evaluation & Visiting Team at Mt. SAC

Year 2-3
Ongoing Accreditation Work
Midterm Report Due
Where are We Now?

Already Complete

✓ Departments, Committees, CSEA, Cabinet, Academic Senate, & Faculty Association all provided input into the Midterm Report Update document

In Process

✓ Accreditation Leadership Ad Hoc Group is using the Midterm Report Update document to draft the Midterm Report

Next Steps

✓ In spring the Midterm Report will be sent to campus community for review and input
✓ Seek Board approval before end of June 2013

Where are We Now?

Lessons Learned

• Post Accreditation Reflection
• Academic Senate Accreditation Taskforce
• Classified Communication Summit
• Managers Survey
• AS & PAC reviewing proposal for ongoing Accreditation Steering Committee
• Effort for inclusion of all stakeholders through accreditation training & preparation

What’s the Next Step?

Questions & Answers
U.S. Department of Education
http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
http://asccc.org/directory/accreditation-committee

Mt. SAC Accreditation websites
➢ College ACCJC Accreditation
   http://www.mtsac.edu/administration/accreditation/
➢ Continuing Education ACS Accreditation
   http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/continuinged/accreditation/index.html

Resources

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This presentation will be available on the Mt. SAC Accreditation webpage:

http://www.mtsac.edu/administration/accreditation/index.html