



# MT. SAC



Mt. San  
Antonio  
College

2024

## Accreditation Crash Course





## Focused Site Visit: February 28-29

### Gearing Up for the Focused Site Visit

This “Crash Course” document is designed to prepare you for the ACCJC site team visit, the culmination of our comprehensive peer review process. More than 170 Mt. San Antonio College faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and students were deeply involved in developing the [2024 Institutional Self-Evaluation Report \(ISER\)](#) that the College submitted in August 2023. Our theme and “Weaving our Story” logo visually represent the integrated elements of inclusion, diversity, and the voices of Mt. SAC that weave through the ISER narrative.

In October 2023 the ACCJC Peer Team met to complete a team ISER review. The process resulted in the team identifying [5 Core Inquiries](#) for their visit. The site visit will focus only on these Core Inquiries.



### Open Forum

#### All Employees Invited \*

- Wednesday, February 28
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Building 13 - 1700 & Zoom
- Provide feedback on the [5 Core Inquiries](#)

### Exit Report

#### All Employees Invited \*

- Thursday, February 29
- 12:00 - 12:30 pm
- Summit Event Center & YouTube Streaming

*\*Authorized release time provided to Classified professionals, with supervisor’s approval*

## ACCJC ISER Review Outcome

During the October ISER review, the ACCJC peer review team developed five Core Inquiries that will serve as the basis of the focused site visit. The core inquiries communicate areas where more information is needed to validate alignment with Standards or develop commendations for areas of excellence.

During late fall and winter, Mt. SAC Core Inquiry Teams worked together to compile additional information and make improvements related to each core inquiry. On February 14th, the College provided the ACCJC with a short narrative and additional evidence, updating the visiting team members on progress and processes related to each Core Inquiry. This report will help to facilitate the team's review process during the site visit.



## The Five Core Inquiries

1. Human Resources Evaluation Processes  
(Standard III.A.5)
2. Process for Evaluation of Governance Structure  
(Standard I.B.7, IV.A.7)
3. Timely and Regular Review of Board Policies and Procedures  
(Standard IV.C.7)
4. Regular and Substantive Interaction in Distance Learning Courses  
(Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education)
5. GRASP & LEAD Success and Effectiveness  
(Standard II.C.4)

## What to Expect During the Site Visit

During the focused site visit, members of the peer review team will come to the College to validate the areas identified in the Core Inquiries.

The visit will include:

- **Meet and Greet** with College governance leaders.
- **Interviews** with key campus voices, related to the Core Inquiries.
- **Open Forum** to provide members of the College and other interested parties access to the team regarding the accreditation standards.
- **Exit Report** where the peer review team will summarize observations, comments, and major findings based on the team's evaluation of the ISER, supporting materials, and observations on site.

## Possible Outcomes from the Focused Site Visit

### Reaffirm Accreditation

In compliance with ERs, Standards, and Policies  
8 years accreditation with a Midterm Report

### Reaffirm Accreditation/Follow-Up Report

In compliance with ERs, Standards, or Policies  
Minor deficiencies to be addressed in a Follow-Up Report

### Reaffirm for 18 months/Follow-Up Report

Significant deficiencies with ERs, Standards, or Policies  
Deficiencies to be addressed in a Follow-Up Report

### Issue Warning

Severe noncompliance with ERs, Standards, or Policies  
Deficiencies must be corrected within 12-18 months

## Accreditation 2024 Visiting Team Roster



### **Dr. Matt Wetstein, President of Cabrillo College | Team Chair**

Dr. Matt Wetstein is in his sixth year as President of Cabrillo College in Aptos, CA. He currently serves as co-chair of the Affordability, Food and Housing Access Task Force for the CCLC/CEO Board. Prior to his appointment at Cabrillo, he served as Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Planning at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA. This is Matt's seventh peer review team for ACCJC and third time as team chair. He has also served on ACCJC's Nominations Committee (2016-18) and Standards Review Committee (2022-23).



### **Dr. Pedro Avila, President of Gavilan College | Team Vice Chair**

Dr. Pedro Avila is the Superintendent/President of the Gavilan Joint Community College District. He assumed that role in July of 2022. Prior to working at Gavilan College, he served as Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services at Santa Rosa Junior College. Dr. Avila's work is grounded in his experiences as an immigrant, English-language learner, and first-generation college student. This is Pedro's sixth ACCJC peer review team.



### **Dr. Linda Carvalho Cooley, Professor of Communication at Reedley College**

Dr. Linda Carvalho Cooley is a communication professor at Reedley College in the State Center Community College District. She has served on Academic Senate as a Senator, Executive Secretary and Curriculum Chair. Dr. Carvalho Cooley has led the creation of the strategic plan for both the district and Reedley College. This is Linda's third time serving on an ACCJC peer review team.



### **Mr. Ulises Velasco, Vice President of Student Services, Mendocino College**

Ulises Velasco serves as the Vice President of Student Services at Mendocino College. He previously worked for the college as the Director of Financial Aid and Interim Dean of Student Services. Prior to Mendocino College, Mr. Velasco worked for Arizona State University as a Financial Aid Counselor, a Coordinator and then as Assistant Director of Scholarship Services. This will be the third ACCJC peer review team for Ulises.



### **Dr. Gohar Momjian, Vice President of ACCJC | ACCJC Staff Liaison**

Dr. Gohar Momjian joined the ACCJC team in September 2017. Accreditation is the cornerstone of her 25+ years' experience in higher education. As Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Development, and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) for City College of San Francisco from July 2012 until June 2015, she provided guidance to the College's improvement processes and demonstrated leadership in the areas of research, planning, grants, marketing, and fundraising.

## What is Accreditation ?

Accreditation is both a process and a status. As a process, it ensures that institutions of higher education meet established standards of quality and provide educational programs, services, credentials, and credits that students and the community can trust. The process also verifies that institutions have the resources and infrastructure to sustain and improve the quality of their educational offerings and services. As a result of a successful accreditation process, institutions gain an accredited status that qualifies them for federal grants and contracts, enables them to distribute federal financial aid, and ensures that their students can transfer credits to another accredited institution. Many employers also require credentials from accredited institutions as a condition of employment. Ultimately, an accredited status signifies to all interested parties that an institution meets expectations for educational quality, sound institutional practice, and resources for students' success.

## What is the Process of Accreditation ?

The ACCJC Commission expects colleges to engage in continuous efforts to sustain and improve educational quality and institutional effectiveness. It requires institutions to undergo a comprehensive peer review for reaffirmation of accreditation every 7 years.

ACCJC's comprehensive peer review process has four steps:

1. Institutional Self-Evaluation and ISER Development
2. Peer Review
3. Commission Review and Action
4. Institutional Response to Recommendations and Ongoing Improvement

## Who Accredits Mt. SAC?

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredits community colleges and other associate degree granting institutions in the Western region of the U.S.

The ACCJC is one of seven regional accrediting commissions authorized to operate by the U.S. Department of Education through the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.



## Mt. SAC Accreditation Homepage

Mt. SAC is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Mt. SAC has conducted a self-evaluation and written an [Institutional Self-Evaluation \(ISER\) report](#) in preparation for a comprehensive accreditation review.

Throughout the past two years campuswide engagement in the accreditation process has utilized existing governance structures, with Mt. SAC faculty, classified professionals, confidentials, managers, and students participating on teams to collect evidence and document the College’s policies, processes, and practices.



To learn more about the Mt. SAC accreditation process visit the [Mt. SAC Accreditation homepage](#).

## **THANK YOU from Your Accreditation Core Team**

Kelly Fowler	Accreditation Liaison Officer/ VP Instruction
Barbara Mezaki	Faculty Accreditation Coordinator
Allie Frickert	Faculty Accreditation Co-Coordinator
Lianne Greenlee	Assistant Dean, Accreditation and Planning
Patty Quinones	Director, Research and Institutional Effectiveness
Michelle Sampat	Dean, Arts Division
Laura Martinez	Executive Assistant to the VP Instruction