

Policy on Representation of Accredited Status

*(Adopted June 1998; Revised January 1999; Edited June 2003, August 2006, August 2012;
Revised June 2013; June 2014)*

The following statements govern representations which can be made by an institution about its accredited status during eligibility review, and representations which must be made by institutions with candidate (preaccreditation) or accredited status. In addition, institutions on probation, show cause, or termination status must disclose that information to students and prospective students and in any publication where the institution makes reference to its accredited status.

An institution must post information for the public concerning its accredited status online, no more than one page (one click) from the institution's homepage. That information will include the representation of accredited status noted below, reports and documents concerning accreditation activities and related data required to be available to the public, and information concerning programmatic accreditation.¹

A. Representation of Status by Institutions Preparing, Submitting, or Completing Eligibility Reviews

An institution which is preparing, has submitted, or completed an eligibility review has no formal relationship with the Commission. An institution that has completed an eligibility review may not make any representation which claims or implies any relationship with the Accrediting Commission.

During the period in which the college prepares its institutional self evaluation, the institution does not have a publicly recognized relationship with the Accrediting Commission and cannot represent itself to current or prospective students, the public, governmental agencies, other accrediting bodies, or any other parties as having an affiliated status with the Commission.

No formal or informal statements should be made about possible future accreditation, status, or qualification which is not yet conferred by the Commission.

Representations should include and be limited to the following statement:

At its (date of meeting), the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges reviewed and accepted the Eligibility Report submitted by (name of institution). Under Commission rules, acceptance of an Eligibility Report does not establish a formal relationship between the Commission and the college. Inquiries about accreditation should be made to the Commission office: ACCJC, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234.

¹ Institutions which have candidate (preaccreditation) or accredited status with the ACCJC are required to disclose their accredited status. Institutions which disclose their accredited status are required to do so in a manner that provides certain information to the public in an accessible manner. The requirements arise out of federal regulation, CHEA Recognition Standards, and ACCJC Accreditation Standards and policies. See, for example, 34 C.F.R. § 602.23(d); CHEA Recognition Standard 12.B.

B. Representation of Status by Candidate Institutions

Institutions that have achieved candidacy status should use the following language in public representations about their relationship with the Accrediting Commission. Note that both paragraphs are required.

(Name of institution) is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at: www.accjc.org

Candidate for Accreditation is a status of preliminary affiliation with the Commission initially awarded for two years. Candidacy is ~~not~~ preaccreditation and does not assure eventual accreditation.

C. Representation of Status by Accredited Institutions

Representations of accredited status should include and be limited to the following statement. Additional modifiers such as “fully accredited” are not appropriate since no partial accreditation is possible.

(Name of institution) is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at: www.accjc.org