

ACCJConnect

ACCJC Connect – October 2021



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Commission Announcements and Updates

Standards Review Teams Collaborate, Begin Drafting Process

The ACCJC Standards Review process continued over the summer as the Peer Writing Teams convened and began their work. All five teams are having robust dialogue about expectations for quality, equitable outcomes, and continuous improvement in their content area. Team members are also thinking deeply about how the new Standards will be used, and are prioritizing clear language and reducing redundancies as they draft initial language. Teams will continue to meet through the fall semester, with the intent of meeting the goals outlined in the [tentative timeline](#).

Available Now: Updated *Guide to Institutional Self-Evaluation*

ACCJC continues to update its guides and manuals. The latest edition of the *Guide to Institutional Self-Evaluation, Improvement, and Peer Review* is now available on the ACCJC website. The [Guide to Institutional Self-Evaluation, Improvement, and Peer Review](#) contains suggestions for how an institution organizes for self-evaluation and prepares for peer review. It is intended for use by institutions as they prepare their Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and by teams when assessing institutions. The September 2021 edition of the *Guide* has been streamlined and reorganized for better usability. The contents have also been updated where needed to reflect current practices - for example, a section about ACCJC's new two-semester comprehensive review process has been added.

ACCJC Breaks Down the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) in our Online Educational Series

In line with our mission and strategic plan, ACCJC has been working to increase communication with our member institutions and to provide resources and support related to the accreditation process. For those colleges coming up for comprehensive review, please take a look at ACCJC's ["Preparing the ISER" Educational Series](#), which complements the ISER trainings provided by the ACCJC staff liaisons.

ACCJC is Committed to Supporting its Colleges through Spring Virtual Visits

In support of our member institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCJC will be conducting all of its spring 2022 site visits virtually. The [Guide for Conducting Virtual Visits](#) was developed to assist colleges, chairs, and team members in conducting and fostering an effective and meaningful virtual accreditation site visit.

Advocacy in Action

As the only institutional accreditor solely committed to the community and junior college mission, ACCJC has a unique opportunity to make sure this mission is respected and honored at the national level. We work with partner agencies to leverage our influence and advocate for all students to have access to quality higher education and the resources they need for success.

Recently, ACCJC signed on as a member of the Double Pell Alliance and joined ACE and 60 other higher education associations in urging Congress to provide permanent legal protections for DACA recipients and all Dreamers. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

ACCJC Webinar Series – Save the Dates

Commissioners and staff look forward to continuing the ACCJC “Collective Dialogues: Advancing Innovation and Quality with our Institutions” webinar series on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. (PDT/PST). This semester’s topics cover some of the diversity, equity, and inclusion work of ACCJC member institutions, an introduction to accreditation and peer review, and assessment practices for continuous quality improvement. Webinars are facilitated by ACCJC Commissioner Randy Beach, Chair of the Educational Programming Committee. The full fall schedule and past webinar recordings are available on the ACCJC website. Please join us for the next webinar, “Demystifying Accreditation” on October 19th! [Read more...](#)

Please forward ACCJC Connect to Your Colleagues

Please spread the word by forwarding *ACCJC Connect* to colleagues, members of the public, and students. Help ACCJC keep member institution personnel and other interested parties apprised of our news and updates. If you have any questions or comments about this communication, please email communications@accjc.org. Thank you!

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