



ACCJConnect

ACCJC Connect – September 2023



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President's Message

2024 Accreditation Standards Implementation and Updated Resources

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that another summer has passed and I am writing to you on the cusp of a new semester. Over the summer, ACCJC staff have been busy developing resources and trainings for the 2024 Accreditation Standards Implementation. We just conducted our first webinar introducing the Standards and appreciated the opportunity to highlight the key changes in the Standards and related processes, answer questions, and engage in conversation with the field about the implementation. For those who could not attend, a second webinar will be held on October 10th. And, I'm pleased to share that the new [ACCJC Accreditation Handbook](#) has launched and is available on the ACCJC website.

In the process of designing and adopting [the 2024 Accreditation Standards](#), we noted several improvements to the process, including extending the accreditation cycle to eight years, revising the Midterm Report, streamlining the ISER, and redesigning training and engagement for stakeholders and peer reviewers.


Finally, thank you to all 27 institutions who have volunteered to serve as pilot colleges and to the peer reviewers who are serving on the upcoming pilot peer review teams. The feedback received and lessons learned through the pilot reviews will be sure to guide future updates and additions to processes and resources.

I am looking forward to connecting with more of you over the next year as I continue the [ACCJC On The Move](#) project, participate in upcoming webinars, and attend various industry meetings and events. As always, please reach out if there is a way I can serve you and best of luck in your work this semester!

Yours,
Mac Powell

ACCJC On The Move

Stories of Student Success and Institutional Transformation

The story of an institution is the story of the people, places, and communities that serve its students. Conversations about student success often focus solely on graduation rates or other benchmark data that can obscure the true impact that institutions, programs, and people have on the human beings served. *ACCJC On The Move* is about our journey to understand the distinct missions of the 138 institutions ACCJC serves, and the promising impactful practices changing lives inside and outside the classroom. Recent features include **College of the Siskiyous** and **Windward Community College**. Take a look at [ACCJC On The Move](#), follow us on  [Instagram @accjc_onthemove](#), and please say hello when you see President Powell on campus!

Commission Announcements and Updates

2024 Accreditation Standards Implementation and Resources

[ACCJC's 2024 Accreditation Standards](#) reflect the diversity of ACCJC member institutions, are streamlined and clear, emphasize equity and inclusion, and are focused on outcomes and improvement rather than processes. To aid in the implementation of the new Standards, ACCJC has developed several resources that are available on the [Accreditation Handbook and Report Templates Page](#) of the ACCJC website:

ACCJC Accreditation Handbook

The ACCJC *Accreditation Handbook* provides an overview of ACCJC's comprehensive system of resources and collaborative practices that promote continuous quality improvement and advance equitable student outcomes. The *Handbook* is intended to serve as the primary reference for guiding institutions and review teams through the institutional evaluation process and to assist accreditation review teams and the Commission to fairly and consistently evaluate institutions. It is the Commission's hope that the *Handbook* will be a helpful resource for a variety of readers, including representatives of institutions accredited by the Commission, institutions seeking accreditation, peer reviewers, and the general public.

The *Handbook* is a comprehensive replacement for most of ACCJC's guides and manuals such as the *Guide to Institutional Self-Evaluation, Improvement, and Peer Review*; the *Guide for Peer Review Team Members*; the *Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) Guide*; and the *Team Chair and Vice Chair Manual*.

Updated ISER Template and other Report Templates

The Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) is required for all institutions as part of a comprehensive review. The ISER provides narrative and evidence documenting alignment with Standards. The updated template reflects streamlined ISER expectations that get you directly into the evaluation and telling YOUR story. The evaluation approach is more holistic in terms of providing a clear sense of mission alignment throughout each Standard area; focuses on equitable outcomes, innovation, and improvement; and allows for more consideration of strengths and success stories. The template includes embedded instructions for each section of the report, suggested length for narrative responses, and checklists for required documentation.

In addition to the Update ISER Template, templates for other ACCJC reports are available on the [Accreditation Handbook and Report Templates Page](#) of the ACCJC website. The updated Midterm Report Template and Peer Review Team Report Templates are coming soon.

Call to Action

Reminder: Comments from the Field on ACCJC Policy Revisions (First Read)

At its meeting June 7-8, 2023, the Commission considered three policy changes for First Read. Following its Bylaws, ACCJC invites comments from the field on the first-read policy revisions. Policy comments must be received by **Friday, September 15**.

[June 2023 Policy Revisions and instructions to make comments...](#)

Please Update Your Institutional Representatives Contact Information

An institution's CEO and ALO are the official points of contact between ACCJC and its member institutions. Please help us keep your institutional contact information up-to-date **as soon as a change occurs** by completing the [Update Contact Information Form](#) available on the ACCJC website.

Upcoming Events

ASCCC Accreditation Institute

The Academic Senate for California Community College (ASCCC) is hosting the virtual 2023 Accreditation Institute on **Friday, September 29, 2023**. The Institute will provide guidance and support to colleges that are gathering evidence, writing their Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), or preparing for a comprehensive site visit. ACCJC Vice Presidents Kevin Bontenbal and Gohar Momjian will be presenting a general session on the new ACCJC Accreditation Standards and peer review process. For more information and to register for the event, visit the ASCCC website at <https://asccc.org/events/2023-accreditation-institute>.

Introducing the 2024 Standards Webinar - Session 2

In place of the "Collective Dialogues: Advancing Innovation and Quality with our Institutions" webinar series, ACCJC is hosting two webinars to introduce the 2024 Standards this fall. The webinars will highlight the key changes in the Standards and related processes to set expectations for colleges, ISERs, and peer review teams. The first took place on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, and the recording is available on the ACCJC website: <https://accjc.org/webinar/>. The Zoom registration link for the second session is below. We look forward to seeing many of you on October 10th.

Introducing the 2024 Standards Session 2

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 1:00-2:00 p.m. PDT

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Upcoming Events *continued...*

ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference Returns in 2024



Save the Dates:
Thursday, May 9 – Friday, May 10, 2024

ACCJC is excited for the return of the Partners in Excellence Conference in 2024! The two-day conference will take place at the **Hyatt Regency Orange County**. More information about the program of events will be coming soon. Please save the dates and consider joining us next year for this fantastic educational and networking opportunity.

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!

If you have not already done so, consider subscribing directly to
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