

Commissioner Categories and Definitions

Introduction

The **ACCJC Commission consists of 19 members**, all of whom are elected by ACCJC member institutions. Composition of the membership is determined by areas of expertise and experience that a Commissioner brings (Category 1), as well as affiliation with other Commissions and related organizations (Category 2). While Commissioners bring perspectives from various institutions, backgrounds, geographical regions, and related organizations, they act as independent decision makers and are not representatives of a certain constituent category, institutional role, or organizational affiliation. These categories are informed by *Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations*, defined in [Article III, Section 1 of the ACCJC Bylaws](#) and are summarized below.

Category 1 Commissioners

- At least **5 Academic Members***
- At least **3 Public Members***
- At least **3 Administrative Members***
- At least **1** Commissioner with **higher education finance experience**
- At least **1** Commissioner with **chief instructional officer experience**
- At least **1** Commissioner from an **independent institution** (not state-sponsored)

Category 2 Commissioners

- At least **1** Commissioner nominated by the **Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges**
- At least **1** Commissioner nominated by the **WASC Senior College and University Commission**
- At least **1** Commissioner nominated by the **Pacific Postsecondary Education Council**
- At least **1** Commissioner nominated by the **California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**
- At least **1** Commissioner nominated by the **University of Hawai'i Community Colleges System**

*Definitions

Academic Members, Faculty Representatives must meet the definition of an academic member that ACCJC adopted in accord with federal regulations ([34 CFR Section 602.15 \(a\)](#)):

Academic Members shall bring faculty experience and may be a current faculty member, academic administrator, librarian, or other academic reflecting the diversity of the region and/or institutional membership. **At least three of the five** shall be current faculty members at the time of their election to the Commission. ([ACCJC Bylaws, Article III, Section 1](#)).

Administrative Members shall bring administrative experience as a current chief executive officer in a two-year college or district at the time of their election to the Commission ([ACCJC Bylaws, Article III, Section 1](#)).

Public Members bring **independent voices, external perspectives, and useful outside expertise** to the Commission. ACCJC values and seeks public members from across industries and geographical regions, with broad volunteer and professional experience, who have interest in community and two-year colleges and advancing educational quality and student learning and achievement. Public members of accrediting bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education must **not** be:

- (1) An employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited or pre-accredited by the agency (i.e., the accreditor) or has applied for accreditation or pre-accreditation;
 - (2) A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with or associated with the agency; or
 - (3) A spouse, parent, child or sibling of an individual identified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition.
- ([34 CFR, Section 602.3, Definitions](#)).