

# Accreditation 101

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Faculty Leadership Institute 2014

# Accreditation 101

## Purpose

- provide a global understanding of the accreditation process and an overview of the ACCJC Accreditation Standards and

## Desired Outcome

- increased comfort in helping your college successfully meet the standards and provide the best possible education for your students.

# What is Accreditation?

**Accreditation** is the process for evaluating and assuring the quality of education used by the American higher education community.



Accreditation is a voluntary system of self-regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness and assures ...

- the public that accredited colleges meet the standards
- education earned is of value to the student
- employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credentials as legitimate

# Quality Assurance by an External Party or Group



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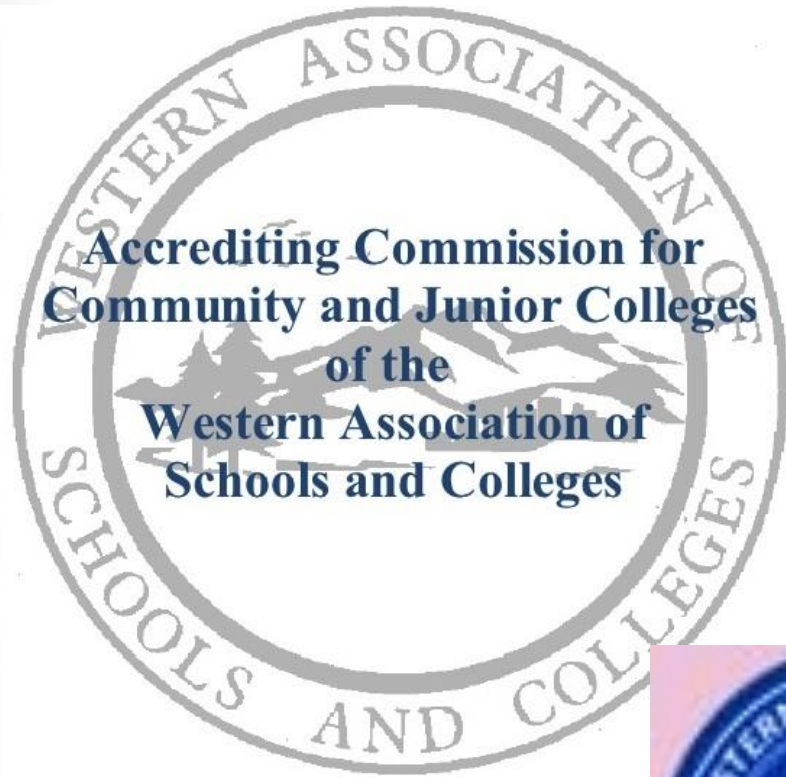
## Outside of the U.S.

- The external party is typically the government (e.g., Ministry of Education)

## In the U.S.

- Private, non-profit organizations (e.g., WASC, ACCJC)

# Our External Accrediting Authority



# The ACCJC assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations and agencies that an accredited institution . . .

- has clearly defined objectives appropriate to higher education
- has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected
- appears in fact to be accomplishing them substantially
- is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected  
to continue to do so



# Elements of the Accreditation Process

## Published Set of Standards

- Expectations for colleges and districts

## Self-Evaluation

- Written reflection of how well institution complies with standards

## Peer Review

- Accreditation review conducted primarily by faculty and administrators from peer institutions

▪

# Elements of the Accreditation Process

## Site Visit

- Team of volunteers from peer institutions visits the college and evaluates the accuracy of the self-study

## Action

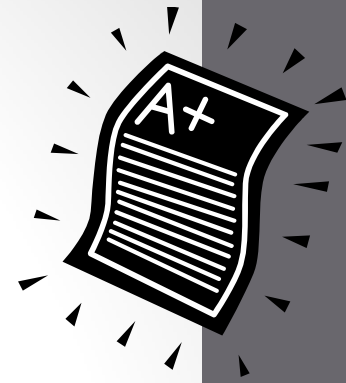
- The ACCJC makes a determination of status:
  - (re-)affirmation of accreditation
  - warning
  - Probation
  - show cause

## Monitoring and Oversight

- On-going cycle of review (every 6 years), mid-term reports, substantive change reports.

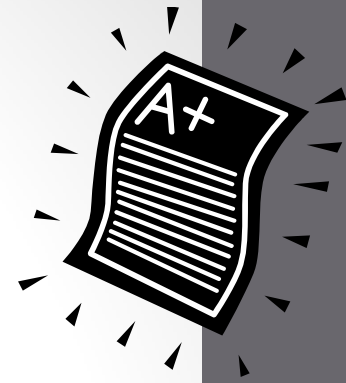
substantive

# Who participates in accreditation processes?



- A. Faculty
- B. Administration
- C. Classified Staff
- D. Students
- E. All of the above

# What role do faculty play in the accreditation report?



- A. Representation on committees**
- B. Writing the report**
- C. Validating the accuracy of the report to the student perspective**
- D. Meeting with Accreditation team visitors**
- E. All of the above**

# And what grants your local Academic Senate a role within the Accreditation Process?

**The 10+1 Academic and Professional Matters  
Lucky Number 7:**

“Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports”



# What are the primary reasons that colleges have been placed on sanction in the last year?

- A. Boards
- B. Fiscal Mismanagement
- C. Planning
- D. Internal Governance
- E. Both A and C



Colleges on Sanction	Program Review	Planning	Internal Governance	Board	Financial Stability or Management
2009 Sanctions ( <i>n</i> = 24)	71% (17)	92% (22)	46% (11)	46% (11)	54% (13)
2010 Sanctions ( <i>n</i> = 19)	68% (13)	89% (17)	42% (8)	58% (11)	58% (11)
2011 Sanctions ( <i>n</i> = 21)	19% (4)	71% (15)	24% (5)	67% (14)	62% (13)
2012 Sanctions ( <i>n</i> = 28)	21% (6)	71% (20)	18% (5)	71% (20)	50% (14)
2013 Sanctions ( <i>n</i> = 25)	28% (7)	64% (16)	20% (5)	68% (17)	52% (13)

# The Accreditation Standards (at least as of today...)

Standard I: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness

Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Services

- A. Instruction
- B. Student Services
- C. Library

Standard III: Resources

-Human, fiscal, physical, and technology

Standard IV: Leadership and Governance



# Accreditation Themes

- **Institutional commitments**
- **Evaluation planning and improvement**
- **Student learning outcomes**
- **Organization**
- **Dialogue**
- **Institutional integrity**

# ACCJC Manuals

- Manual for Institutional Self Evaluation
- Team Evaluator Manual
- Substantive Change Manual
- Guide to Evaluating Institutions

# The manuals address ...

- Institutional commitments
- Accreditation standards and rubrics
- The self evaluation process
- Self evaluation report for educational quality and institutional effectiveness
- The site visit
- External evaluation report and commission decision

# Structure of the analysis of each of the Standards

- Descriptive summary
- Self evaluation
  - analyze and systematically evaluate its performance against the Accreditation Standards and its institutional mission.
- Actionable improvement plans
  - integrated into the institution's continuous evaluation and planning processes.

# Provide evidence of ...

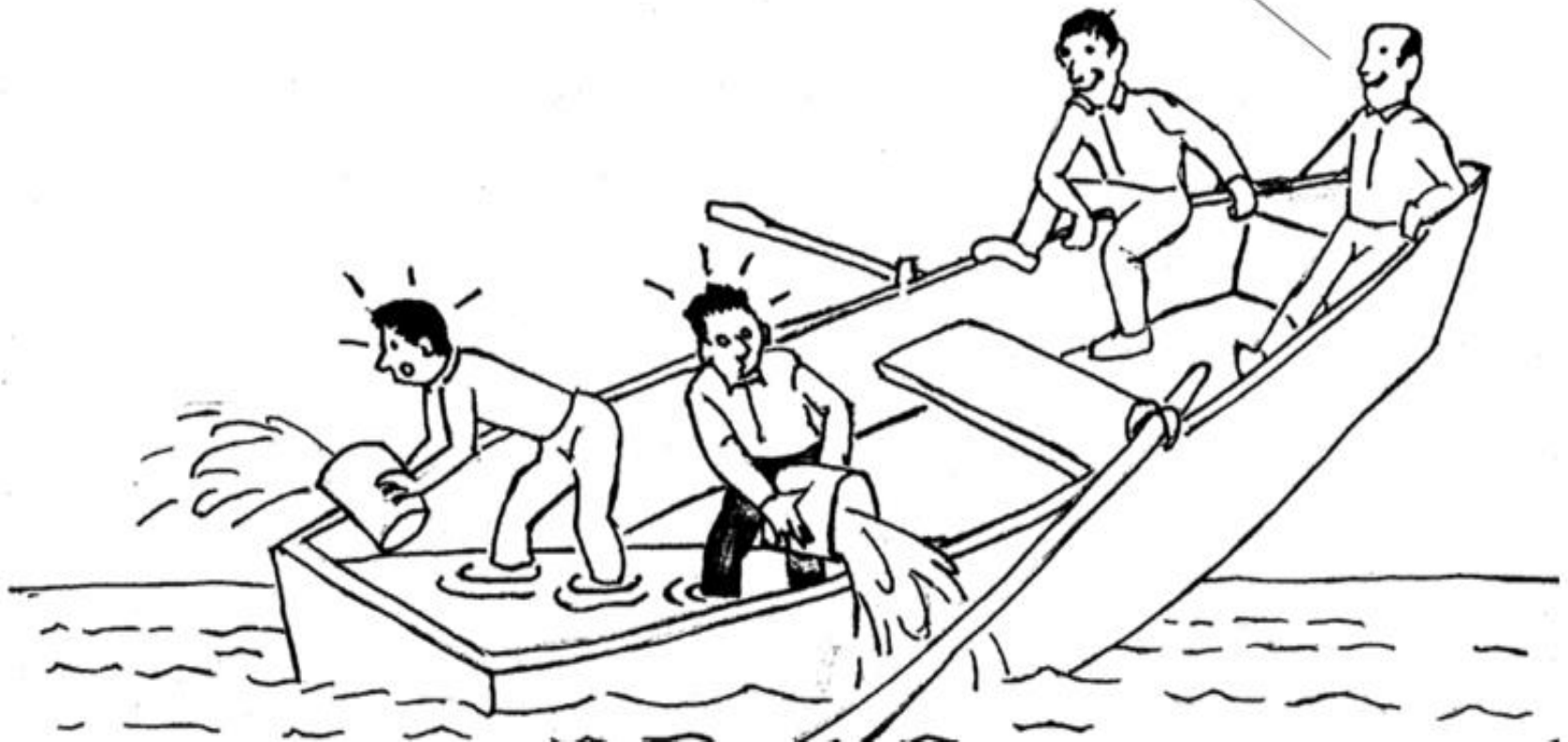
- Student achievement
- Student learning outcomes and assessment
- Quality program review
- Quality of student support services
- Financial performance and integrity
- *Evidence of compliance with other areas related to federal requirements\**

# So, Any Accreditation Advice?



# Every constituency is involved

Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.



# Rigorous and Honest Self-Evaluation

I'd like to see you naked.  
Want to go out?



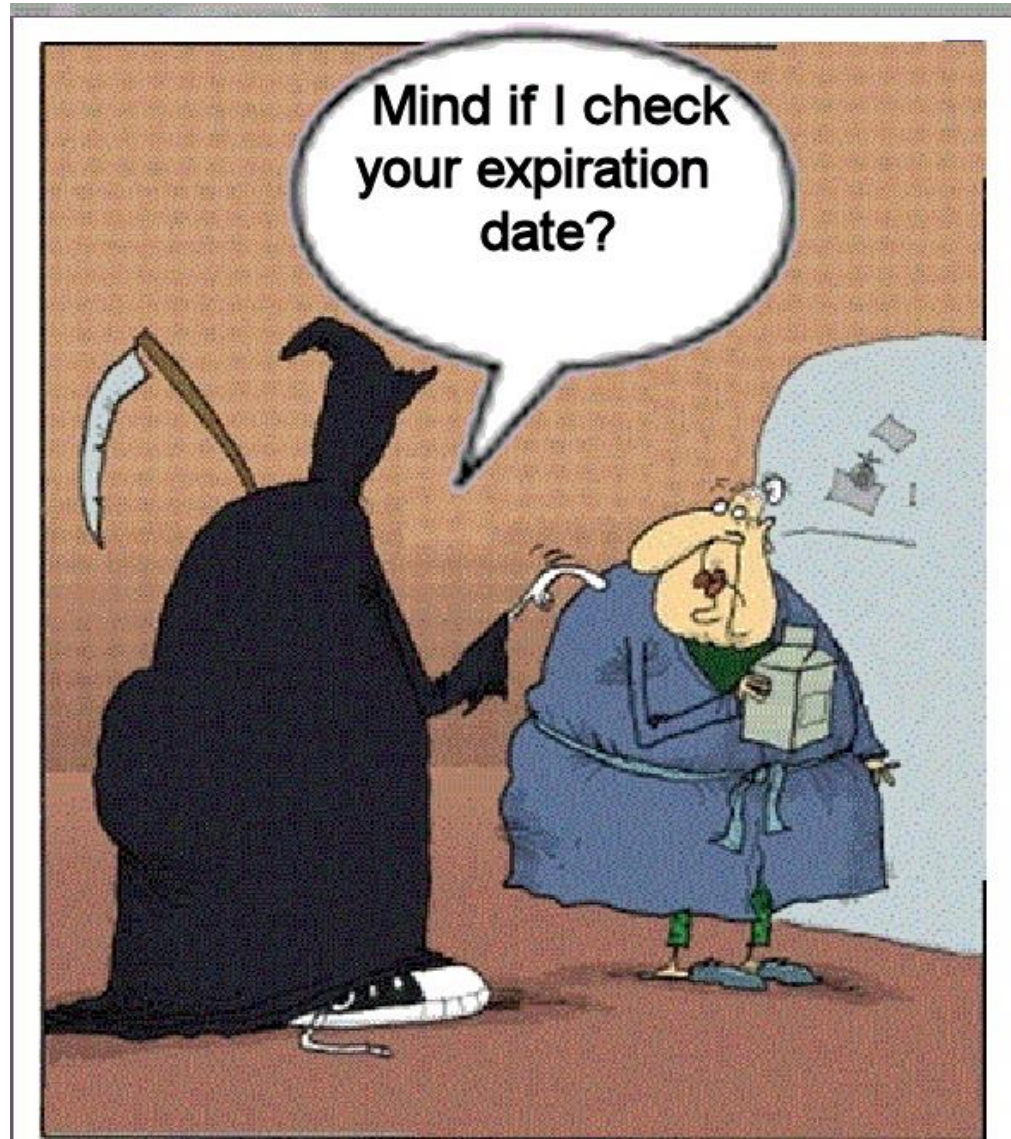
That will be tolerable  
until I can find  
someone better.



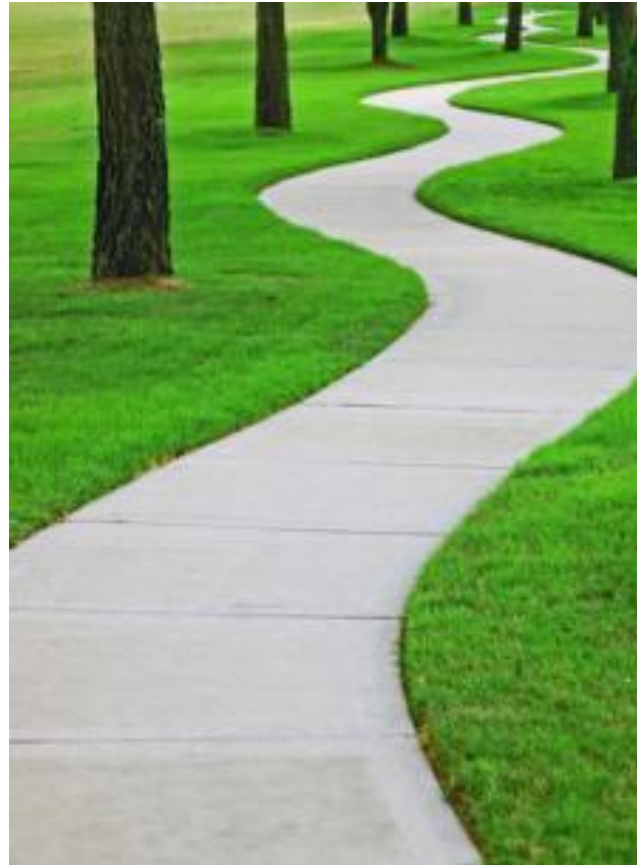
Dating in an Honest World



# Courses and programs are reviewed regularly for usefulness and currency



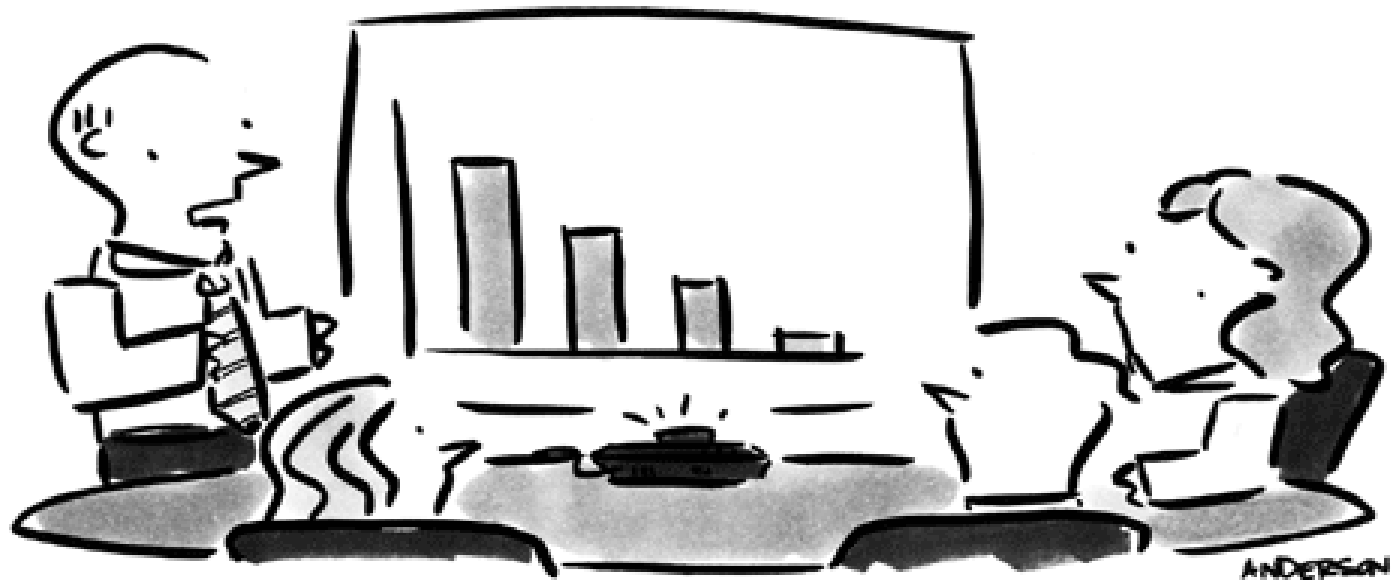
# Student Pathways Are Reviewed



# Budgeting, planning, and revenue allocation processes are reviewed

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"Times are tough. In fact we can barely afford the consultants to tell us how to let you all go."

Who makes all this  
happen?



# Who makes all this happen?

- Existing committees and processes
- Curriculum
- SLO and assessment
- Program review
- Research
- Planning
- Departments and divisions
- Governance processes (*Senate!*)

# Resources

- Goodies in your ebinder
- <http://www.accjc.org>
- <http://www.asccc.org>

# Comments? Questions?

