

Accreditation 101

Dolores Davison, Foothill College
Phil Smith, American River College

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
Faculty Leadership Institute 2013

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.

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





Quality Assurance by an External Party or Group

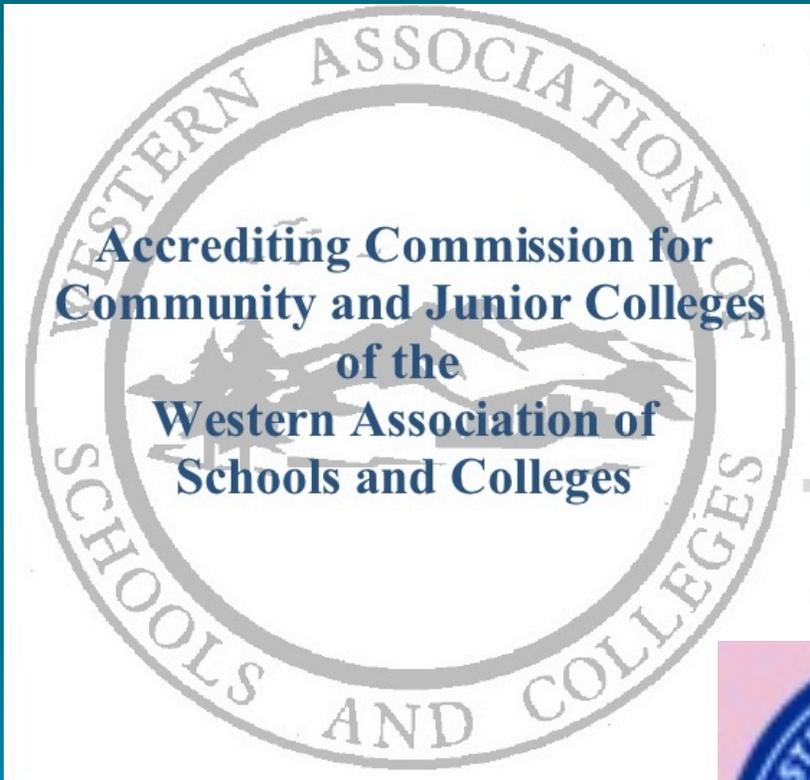
Outside of the U.S.

- 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



ACCJC



**Accrediting
Commission
for Community
and Junior Colleges**

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
- demonstrates that it meets Accreditation Standards



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-evaluation

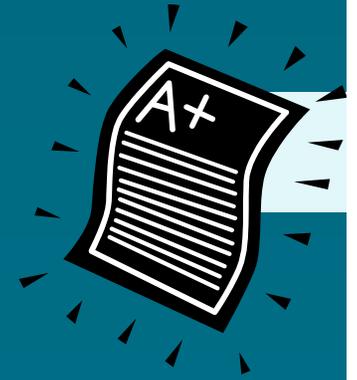
Action

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

Monitoring and Oversight

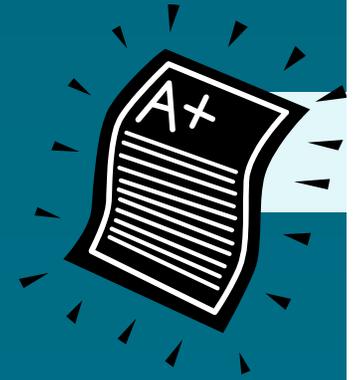
- On-going cycle of review (every 6 years), mid-term reports, substantive change reports.

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?

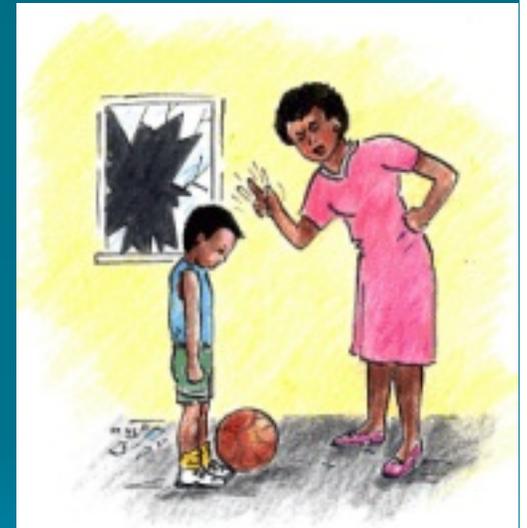
A. Boards

B. Fiscal Mismanagement

C. Planning

D. Internal Governance

E. Both A and C



Why Are Colleges on Sanction?

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

The Accreditation Standards

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

Analysis Needed for 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****

Accreditation Themes

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



New ACCJC Manuals

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



Beginning with the comprehensive visits in fall 2012, colleges are required to use the new manuals.



The manuals address ...

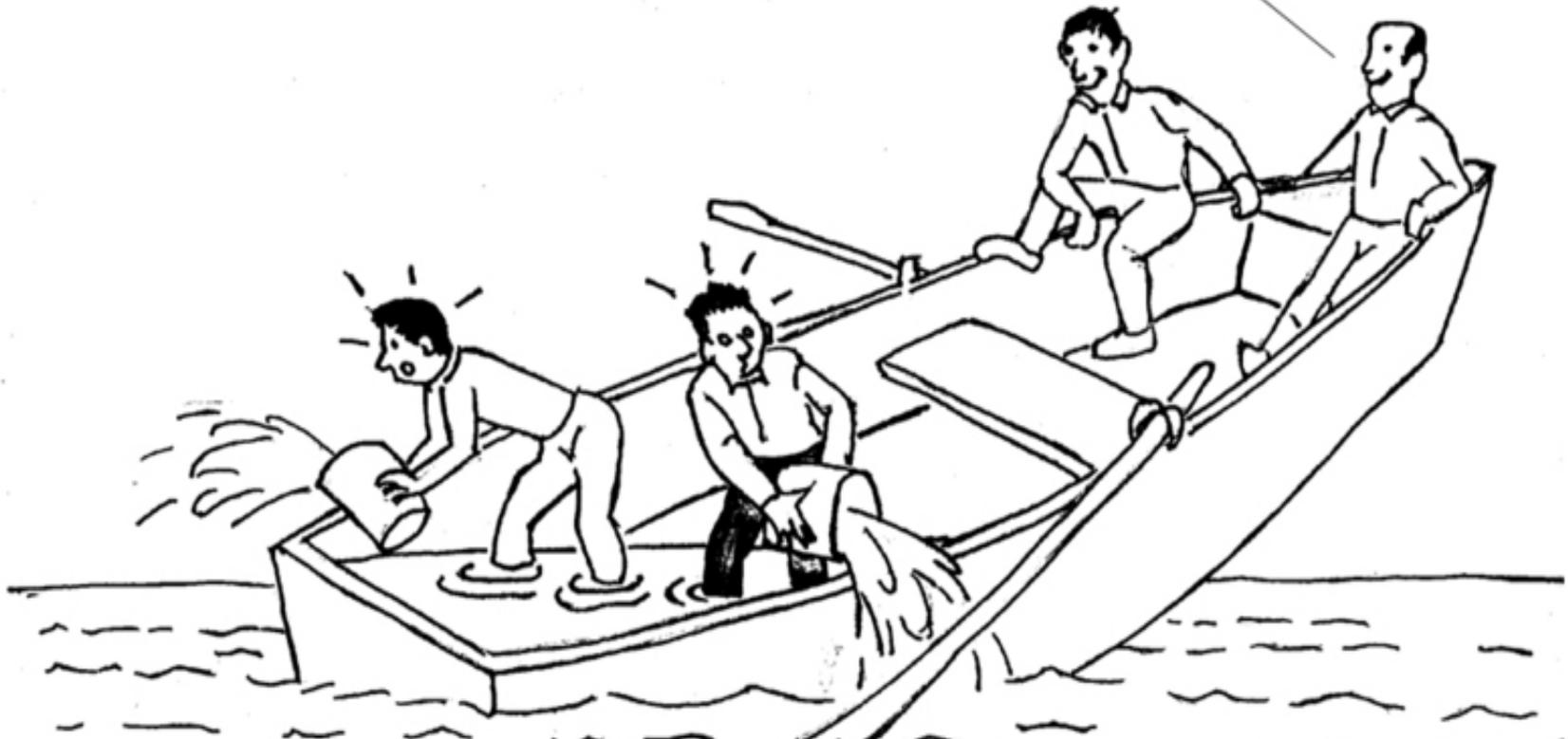
- Institutional commitments
- Accreditation standards and rubrics
- The self-evaluation process
- Self-evaluation report for educational quality and institutional effectiveness
- The site visit
- External evaluation report and commission decision

So, Any Accreditation Advice?



Every constituency is involved

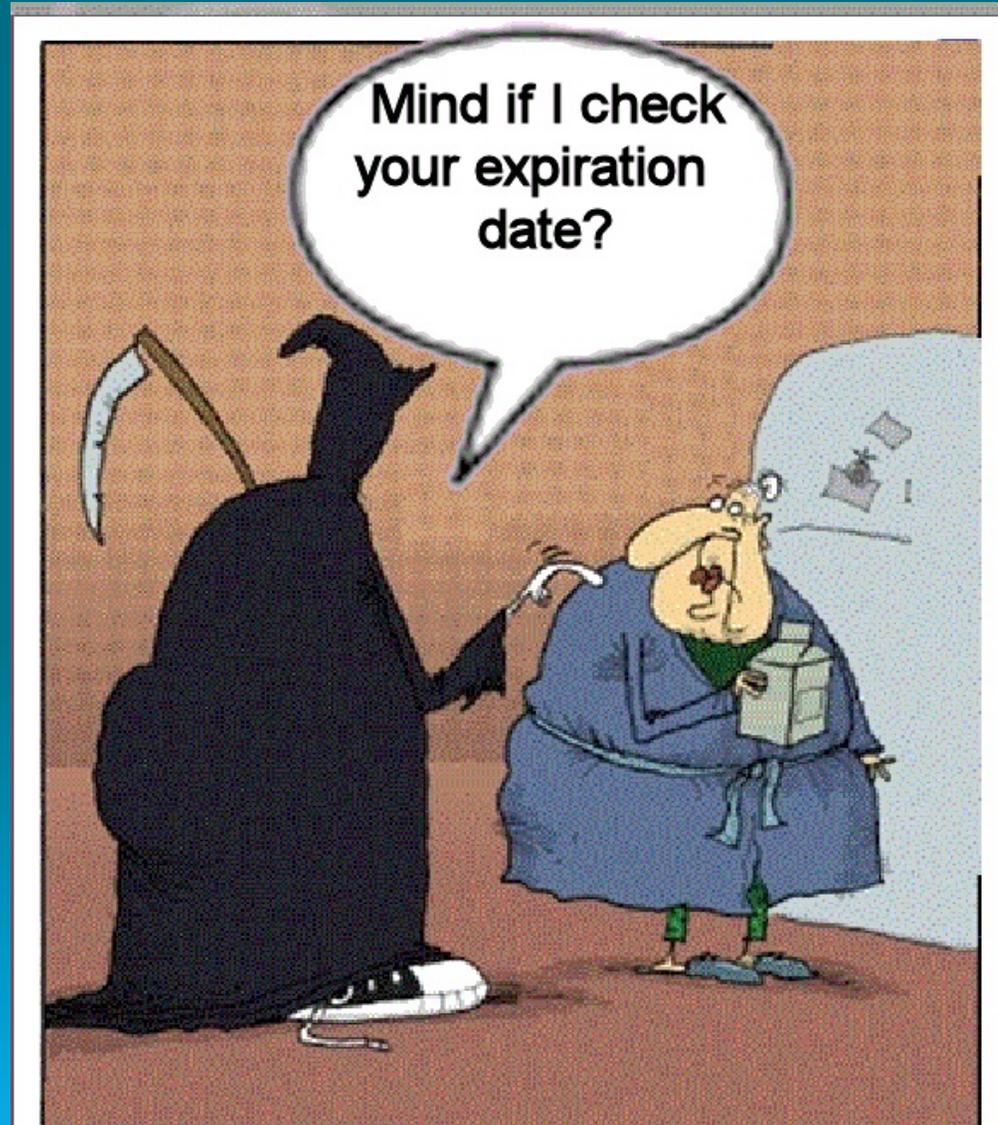
Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.



Rigorous and Honest Self-Evaluation



Courses and programs are reviewed regularly for usefulness and currency



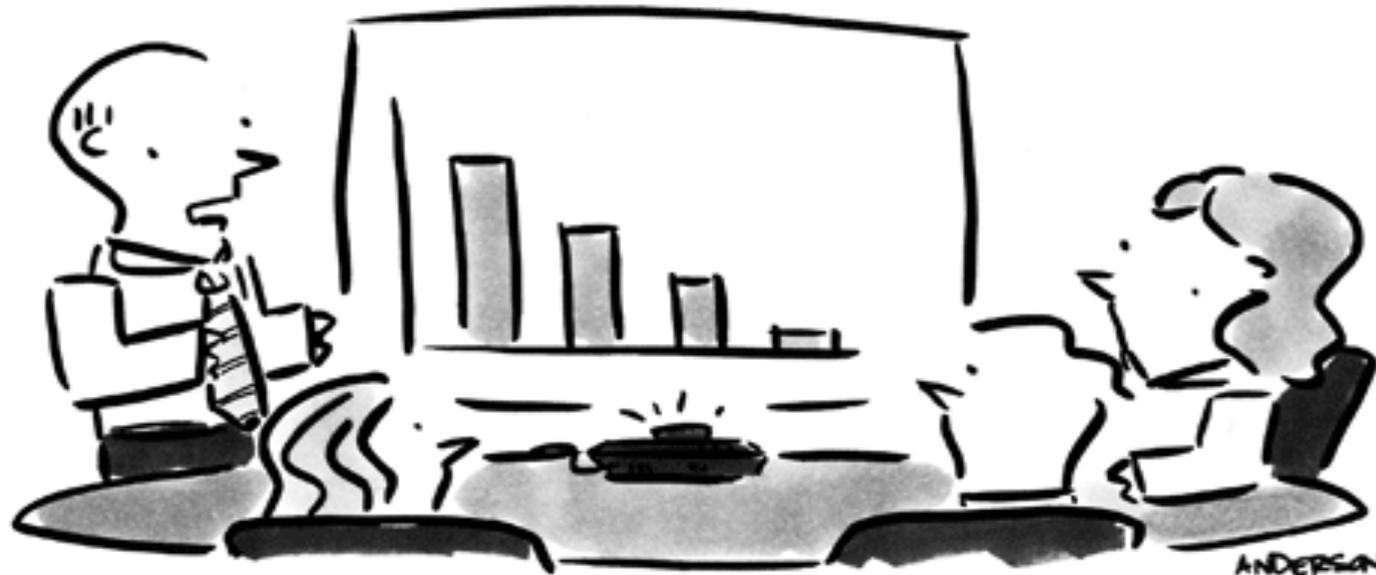
Student Pathways Are Reviewed



Budgeting, planning, and revenue allocation processes are reviewed

© MARK ANDERSON

WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"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

- <http://www.accjc.org>
- <http://www.asccc.org>
- <http://www.chea.org/pdf/Overview%20of%20US%20Accreditation%202012.pdf>

Comments? Questions?

