

A Brief Introduction to Accreditation

We've got to do it... Although considered “voluntary,” without accredited status, students cannot receive federal funding and course credits cannot be used for transfer to other institutions. The stamp of approval assures the public, students, and employees of our quality, integrity, and effectiveness.

We should want to do it... Besides the obvious advantages of being accredited, we can benefit from taking the time to evaluate the way we function and ask, “How are we doing? Can we do better?”

What's involved?... First, we need to conduct a thorough self-evaluation. We'll judge our performance against the Commission's standards. Based on our discussions and research, we will write a report of our findings, including updates on progress in meeting the recommendations we received in 2016 and in meeting the action plans we set for ourselves.

Verifying what we've said... An ACCJC team will read our report, determine whether further evidence or campus interviews are needed, and give us recommendations for improvement. The Commission will use this information to determine our status.

The Tri-Chair Role

1. The tri-chairs should meet a couple times this semester and actively recruit team members to contribute to the team (a call for volunteers was already sent several times college-wide). Set a schedule of monthly meeting times with your team beginning in spring 2021. Meetings of all the teams (“mega-meetings”) will take place at least once per semester, starting with our kick-off on November 6, 2020.
2. Decide on how the following tasks will be divided among the tri-chairs:
 - Communicating with the team about meetings and assignment due dates
 - Facilitating discussion to ensure that everyone's opinions are considered
 - Taking notes during meetings
 - Compiling your team's drafts and sending them to Yih-Mei Hu (huy@lavc.edu)
3. Set deadlines and assign the research, writing, and gathering of evidence to support the narrative. The descriptions and evaluations may be written together as a team or sections may be assigned to individual team members. The writing can also be done collaboratively online. Your team members will be able to upload evidence to SharePoint.
4. Ensure that everyone attends meetings and follows through on tasks. *Evaluations and recommendations for actionable improvement plans should be done in virtual or, when we are permitted to be on campus, face-to-face meetings and agreed to by consensus.*
5. **See timeline for important dates.**