



ACCREDITATION NEWS

Process to Accreditation News

Welcome to the first edition of the Accreditation Newsletter. The El Camino Community College District and Compton Community College District are working in partnership to obtain independent accreditation for El Camino College Compton Educational Center.

This newsletter is dedicated to providing comprehensive information about the accreditation process—a very complicated process that all community colleges go through to receive accreditation. This publication will outline the actions and communications of the following:

- The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), one of six regional accrediting associations in the United States. The WASC has the responsibility for accrediting qualified educational institutions in California, Hawaii, and areas of the Pacific which are formally affiliated with the United States.
- The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which is one of three commissions comprising the WASC, and is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate colleges on the criteria required to achieve accreditation.
- The Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC), which is led by the Compton Community College District CEO, the Vice President, El Camino College Compton Center, and Compton Center's Faculty Council President, while the rest of the committee is comprised of Compton Center faculty, students, classified staff and administrators.

Process to Accreditation

The process to obtain accreditation of the ECC Compton Center as an independent college will be completed in phases and organized as follows:

Compton District's Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and El Camino College's Vice President of Compton Center (VPCC) will jointly lead the process to accreditation. They will be responsible for continuously monitoring the process and making the operational decisions necessary to ensure that work is complete, on time and of high quality. The Interim CEO and VPCC will be accountable to the Superintendent/President and the Special Trustee, and through them to the El Camino and Compton Boards of Trustees. El Camino College's Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) will serve as the Center's Accreditation Liaison Officer.

To assist the Interim CEO and the VPCC in guiding the process, the Superintendent/President has appointed an Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC). The ASC is co-chaired by the Interim CEO, VPCC and the President of the Faculty Council (FC).

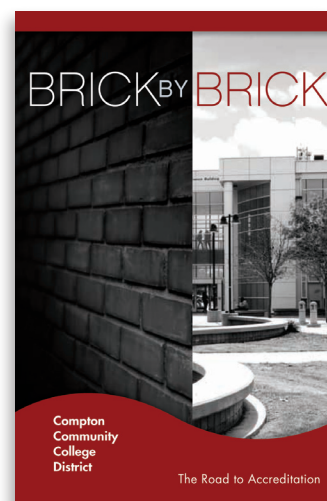
The first phase of the process to accreditation will be to prepare an eligibility application and supporting documentation for submission to the Accrediting Commission. Presuming the Accrediting Commission grants accreditation eligibility, the second and third

phases of the process will be preparation for candidacy, followed by application for initial accreditation.

During the entire process, the direction, guidelines and timelines, from candidacy through full accreditation, are determined by the Accrediting Commission and not El Camino College, ECC Compton Center, the Compton Community College District, or any other entity.

Accreditation Update

El Camino College Senior Management in coordination with the Special Trustee and the Compton Community College District executive staff developed an internal planning document, called "The Process to Accreditation." This document was shared with the faculty and staff of both districts, and communicated to the community through the booklet entitled "[*Brick by Brick: The Road to Accreditation.*](#)" At Compton Center, the process began with an all-campus forum on November 2, 2010.



The co-chairs of the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) briefly explained the accreditation process and took questions from students, faculty, staff, and managers.

Meeting monthly since November 2010, the ASC monitors the progress made toward accreditation eligibility. Five ASC subcommittees oversee the areas of organization, instruction/faculty, student services and public information, financial integrity, and planning and evaluation.

The subcommittee chairs began preparing a written assessment for each of the 21 ACCJC accreditation eligibility requirements for the February 2011 meeting. The reports indicated whether or not Compton Center meets the criteria.

For ACCJC eligibility criteria currently met, subcommittees will fine tune their reports and collect supporting documentation as evidence. For areas of deficiency, appropriate faculty/staff/managers will be responsible for developing a process to align Compton Center with the ACCJC standards.

Status of Compton Center's Compliance with Accreditation Eligibility Criteria

Recently the ASC released the results of its assessment of the ACCJC [Eligibility Criteria](#) and Compton Center's compliance with each. Currently, the Center does not meet five of the eligibility criteria.

It is important to note that of the 21 eligibility criteria, Compton Center meets ten of these because of processes and programs being provided by El Camino College. Since Compton Center is currently part of El Camino College, this is appropriate for establishing eligibility but not for full independent accreditation. Compton Center will need to establish the processes for all functions in order to meet the criteria on its own.

Areas of Deficiency:

Administrative Capacity – Independently, the Center does not have sufficient staff, with appropriate preparation and experience, to provide the administrative services necessary to support all of its programs. At this time, many administrative functions and student services for Compton Center are performed by El Camino College; Compton Center will need to establish the resources and processes for these functions independently.



Institutional Planning and Evaluation – The completion of an Educational Master Plan is critical for the planning and evaluation of eligibility in the process to accreditation. The plan still needs to be completed and it must clearly document that results are linked to budget planning and allocation, as well as Student Learning Outcomes.

Student Learning and Achievement – Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are the specific measurable results that are expected at the end of a learning experience (i.e. a course; a program of study; a degree or certificate; or set of interactions with student or library services). SLOs are measured at the course, program and institutional levels. The assessment, evaluation, and documentation of evidence for SLOs in many areas has not yet begun and is a critical area of deficiency in meeting the eligibility criteria.

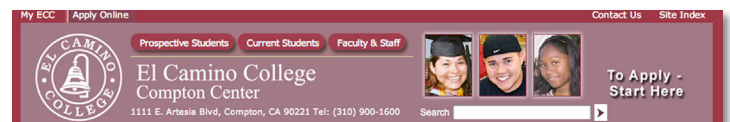
Areas of Concern:

Financial Resources – A full assessment of financial resources is still pending, however it is evident some areas are significantly under-funded. While enrollment grew to a record level providing the necessary financial resources to support the Center, the state's current fiscal situation will have an adverse impact on Compton Center's ability to support student learning programs and services independently.

Financial Accountability – While the Center can show that two years of the required external financial audits have been conducted, there are several findings without documentation to show how or if they have been addressed. A certified follow-up audit will be conducted to include an explanation of all outstanding issues that have been addressed.

Accreditation Q&A

Visit ECC Compton Center's website [here](#) to review answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the process to accreditation.



Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions about the road to accreditation after visiting our Web page, you may submit your email address and comments or questions at: www.compton.edu/campusinformation/accreditation/



El Camino College
Compton Center

