

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Date: January 29, 2020

To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, Accreditation Liaison Officers, and Other

Interested Parties

From: Gohar Momjian, Vice President

Subject: Invitation to Field for Comment on Policy Revisions (First Read) and Notice of Adoption of Policy Revisions (Second Read)

The ACCJC Policy Committee oversees the development of new policies and changes to existing policies. Commission procedures generally provide that proposed policy changes and/or new policies be considered by the Commission in a two-meeting process. At the first meeting, new policies/policy changes are discussed and modifications are made as appropriate (first-reading). These policies are then circulated to ACCJC's member institutions and other interested parties for review and comment before presentation at the next scheduled Commission meeting for second-read and adoption. At its January 2020 meeting, the Commission considered the following policy changes for first-read:

Items for First Reading

- 1. New: Policy on Competency Based Education (CBE) this is a new policy which provides general information on competency based education programs, federally recognized approaches to CBE, Title IV funding requirements, guidance to institutions seeking to offer CBE, and ACCJC's responsibility to evaluate an institution's offering of CBE programs.
- 2. Revision: <u>Policy on Institutional Degrees and Credits</u> deleted the section on direct assessment programs to eliminate redundancy since the topic will be included and expanded upon in the proposed new Competency Based Education policy.
- 3. Revision: Policy on Direct Assessment of Learning policy is being renamed to Policy on Credit for Prior Learning which more accurately describes the topic of the policy, and language is clarified in the headings that the policy elements concern credit for prior learning.

Items Adopted in Second Reading

- 1. Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance
- 2. Policy on the Rights and Responsibilities of the Commission and Member Institutions
- 3. Policy on Public Disclosure and Confidentiality in the Accreditation Process
- 4. Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions

Item Adopted for Deletion

1. Policy on Award of Credit

Comments from the Field

Following its Bylaws, the ACCJC invites comments from the field on these policy revisions. Therefore, we request that you publicize the information in this memo at your institution. Written comments may be emailed to accjc@accjc.org or complete the online Comment Now form.

Comments must be received by Friday, February 14, 2020 in order to be considered. All comments received by the due date will be reviewed by the ACCJC Policy Committee. The committee will incorporate any changes into the policies, which will then be presented to the Commission for second-reading and action at the June 2020 meeting. Additionally, the policies will be on the Commission's open meeting agenda, and anyone interested may comment on the policies and the proposed changes directly to the Commission during the public comment session and prior to the Commission taking action.

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