



For two years now, SRJC has been engaged in the process to reaffirm its accreditation. Through the hard work of many SRJC faculty, classified staff, and administrators, we accomplished a major step in this process by completing a comprehensive Self Evaluation Report in January. Now we are ready for the culminating visit by an appointed external evaluation team. To help foster a collegial and informed environment during the visit, this Fact Sheet will give you information about the upcoming visit and its role in our accreditation.

What is accreditation, and why is it so important?

Accreditation is a voluntary system of self regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness. Achieving and maintaining accreditation assures the public that:

- The college meets standards of quality developed by the accrediting commission and its constituents
- The education experienced at the college is of value to its students
- Four-year transfer institutions, profession-related licensing agencies, and employers can accept a student's degree, certificate, and courses as legitimate

Furthermore, fully accredited status allows the college to qualify for and distribute government funds, including federal financial aid.

SRJC is accredited through the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), one of six regional accrediting organizations in the nation. To learn more, see the ACCJC website at <http://www.accjc.org/>.

What is the purpose of the site visit?

The external evaluation team consists of trained volunteer faculty, administrators, and other representatives from community colleges in ACCJC's region. The purpose is to verify the information provided in the Self Evaluation Report through on-site meetings, interviews, and analysis and discussion among team members. The group writes a preliminary evaluation report and recommendations and submits them to ACCJC for the final decision.

To read the 2015 Self Evaluation Report and learn more about accreditation in general, please see SRJC's new Accreditation 2015 website, available from the SRJC homepage and at <http://accreditation.santarosa.edu/>.

When is the accreditation site visit scheduled, and where will the team conduct its work?

The evaluation team members will arrive Monday morning, March 9, and depart on Thursday afternoon, March 12. They will be using the 4th Floor Reading Room in Doyle Library as their confidential meeting room, and most interviews will be held nearby in designated Doyle Library rooms.

What will the team do while they are here?

During the visit, team members will interview faculty, administrators, and classified staff who have leadership roles in areas related to the Standards and can provide answers to any questions related to the Self Evaluation Report. (Note: Individuals requested for interviews will be notified ahead of time.) Team members will also tour both campuses plus Shone Farm, the Public Safety Training Center, and the Southwest Santa Rosa Center. Members occasionally visit classrooms, labs, and offices and may also sit in on shared governance committee meetings team members are also invited to attend the March 10 Board meeting.

There will be three sessions with the team open to all members of the college community. Forums are scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 11, to allow members of the college community to provide direct input about the college to the team. The team will also present an exit report session, summarizing their findings and listing recommendations, on Thursday, March 12. The times and locations of the forums and the exit report session will be announced to the college community via email the week before the visit.

Who are our External Evaluation Team Members?

Below is the list of our evaluation team members. Their photos will be posted on the Visiting Team web page of the Accreditation website at <http://accreditation.santarosa.edu/accreditation-2015-visiting-team>. During their visit, they will be identified with badges, and we hope you will have the chance to welcome them in person.

Mr. William Duncan (Chair)

Superintendent/President, Sierra College

Mr. Greg Miraglia

Dean of Career and Technical Education
Napa Valley College

Ms. Jene Hallam (Assistant)

Executive Assistant to the
Superintendent/President, Sierra College

Mr. Daniel Peck

President, Mission College

Ms. Linda Beam

Vice President Human Resources
El Camino College

Mr. Ken Stoppenbrink

Vice Chancellor Business Services
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Mr. Marc Beam

Director of Research and Planning
Shasta College

Dr. Christopher Villa

Vice President Student Services
Fresno City College

Dr. Alan Buckley

Professor of Political Science
Santa Monica College

Dr. Teresa Ward

Instructor, Language Education
and Development, Butte College

Ms. Wendy Griffiths-Bender

Faculty Librarian, Columbia College

Dr. Kathleen Winston

Dean, Nursing/Allied Health
Mt. San Jacinto College

Judith Chen Haggerty, JD

Trustee, Mt. San Antonio College

Dr. Wei Zhou

Vice President, Instruction
Cuyamaca College



What else should we know about the site visit?

While the purpose of the visit is evaluative, the process remains collegial, respectful, and professional. If you are asked to meet with members of the team, provide honest and straightforward answers. If you are unsure how to answer certain questions, please direct team members to the Accreditation Liaison Officer, Mary Kay Rudolph, who will identify other individuals who can provide the requested information.

What happens after the site visit?

After completing the exit report, which is essentially a draft, the team leader finalizes the External Evaluation Report and team confidential recommendations and submits them to ACCJC. The College is given the opportunity to review the External Evaluation Report and correct errors of fact. Based on the External Evaluation Report and recommendations, ACCJC will determine SRJC's accreditation status at its June 30, 2015, meeting. The Commission's decision may be one of the following:

- Reaffirmation of SRJC's accreditation
- Reaffirmation with a progress report and possibly a follow-up visit
- A warning that deficiencies must be corrected within a year in order for accreditation to be reaffirmed

SRJC 2015 Accreditation Web Site
www.accreditation.santarosa.edu



What do the Standards cover, and how well does SRJC meet those Standards?

Our Self Evaluation Report provides a thorough discussion of how SRJC meets each Standard. This document can be accessed from the Accreditation 2015 website at <http://accreditation.santarosa.edu/2015-self-evaluation-report-0>. Below is a summary of the areas covered by each Standard plus SRJC Accreditation Steering Committee's plans for improvement to more fully meet specific Standards.

Standard	SRJC Strengths	Areas Identified for Improvement
Standard I: Institutional Mission and Improving Institutional Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and Implementation of Strategic Plan • The Program and Resources Planning Process (PRPP) • The new Institutional Planning website 	Fully implement and evaluate 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and new Strategic Plan Scorecard for assessing institutional effectiveness
Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth, depth, and instructional methodology of courses, certificates, degree, and General Education programs • Progress in assessing Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of those programs • Comprehensive, well-coordinated Student Services programs and student learning support (e.g., Library, Tutorial, computer labs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ongoing and integrated assessment for SLOs in all courses and programs • Further develop services and support for Distance Education students
Standard III: Resources: Human, Physical, Technology, Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-coordinated offices, procedures, and systems that meet institutional needs despite severe state budget fluctuations and uncertainty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address role of SLOs in faculty evaluations • Develop and implement plans to address structural deficit
Standard IV: Leadership and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of institutional organization, transparency, and dialogue in SRJC's participatory governance system • Clear, accessible, and relevant policies and procedures • Well informed, involved, and stable Board of Trustees 	Ensure full orientation and integration of new Board members

We look forward to sharing our exemplary college with our visitors! If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our Accreditation representatives

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