

Summary of information gleaned from the Spring 2013 ACCJC Newsletter and recent accreditation workshops.

Student Achievement Measures:

There is an increasing emphasis on measures of “college output and outcomes” that stems from the US Department of Education. A key part of this is a push for metrics that reflect student achievement. The emphasis on student achievement includes several important components:

- “College completion” - Completion numbers, time to completion, etc.
- “Quality of graduates” – This includes SLO assessment, with a strong emphasis on SLO achievement at the program level
- “Institutionally-set standards” –ACCHC has currently asked for us to set standards for course success, Fall to Fall persistence, numbers of degrees and certificates, and number of transfers. Other measures may require locally set standards in the future (such as job placement, success by course modality, measures related to the achievement gap, etc.)
- “Use of assessment results in integrated planning” – Measures of student achievement and SLO assessment need to have a clear connection to planning processes
- “Making information available to the public” – This includes making the information available ‘one click away’ from the college homepage.

Two year rule:

Colleges receive sanctions for many reasons (see below). One important note is that ACCJC is being required to enforce the “two-year rule” that requires accreditors to terminate the accreditation of an institution that is out of compliance for two or more years.

Emerging reasons for sanction:

The most common problems for the colleges on sanction as of Jan 2013 are noted in the ACCJC Spring 2013 newsletter. Those affecting more than 10 colleges are board roles and responsibilities (17 colleges), planning using assessment results (16), and financial management (13).

The ACCJC Spring 2013 newsletter also notes that deficiencies in the following areas are “emerging reasons for sanction”. I included all of the areas affecting 5 or more colleges whether they were on the chart in the newsletter or not:

- Student Learning Outcomes (9)
- Student Services (7)
- Employee Evaluation (7)
- Use of Research for Improvement (7)
- Mission (7)
- Miscellaneous HR deficiencies (8)
- Distance Education (5)