**Understanding Your Role in Accreditation**

**What is accreditation?**

“Accreditation is a voluntary system of self regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness.” <http://www.accjc.org/>

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES (ACCJC)

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Accreditation Standards (Adopted June 2014)

“The primary purpose of an ACCJC–accredited institution is to foster student learning and student

achievement. An effective institution ensures that its resources, programs, and services, whenever, wherever, and however delivered, support student learning and achievement. The effective institution ensures academic quality and continuous improvement through ongoing assessment of learning and achievement and pursues institutional excellence and improvement through ongoing, integrated planning and evaluation.” (Introduction to the 2014 Standards)

No accreditation 🡪 credits don’t transfer and students cannot receive financial aid

Colleges must meet standards 24/7. They are not something we aim for; they are something we meet.

**Faculty Responsibility in Accreditation Processes**

Education Code Title 5 SECTION 53200 DEFINITIONS

**Academic Senate** means an organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters.

**Academic and Professional matters** means the following policy development matters:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites.  
2. Degree and certificate requirements.  
3. Grading policies.  
4. Educational program development.  
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.  
6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles.  
**7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes.**8. Policies for faculty professional development activities.  
9. Processes for program review.  
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.  
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon.

**Consult Collegially** means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following:

1. **Rely primarily upon** the advice and judgment of the academic senate, OR  
2. The governing board, or its designees, and the academic senate shall **reach mutual agreement** by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations.

<http://www.asccc.org/communities/local-senates/handbook/partI>

**Bakersfield College Timeline**

2012 Self Evaluation 🡪 Accreditation Reaffirmed with 8 college and 4 district recommendations to meet the standards.

2013 Follow Up Report 🡪 Recommendations met; commendation received.

2015 Midterm Report 🡪 We must show that our efforts are systematic and sustainable.

Presented to New Faculty, October 15, 2014