



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Richard Winn, Interim President
Raúl Rodríguez, Chair

February 3, 2017

Mr. Henry Yong
President
Evergreen Valley College
3095 Yerba Buena Road
San Jose, CA 90405

Dear President Yong:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-13, 2017, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Evergreen Valley College, the presentation made at the Commission meeting by College and District officials, and the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the evaluation team that visited October 10-13, 2016. College leadership, including the president of the governing board, the chancellor, and the College president, certified the College's report, which was submitted in application for reaffirmation of accreditation. The purpose of the Commission's review was to determine whether the College continues to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies (hereafter called Standards).

After considering the material noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for 18 months**, and to require a **Follow-Up Report** on the issues identified in the team's findings of noncompliance at the College. The Follow-Up Report will be due on **March 15, 2018**.¹ Reaffirmation for 18 months indicates that the Commission has determined that the institution is in substantial compliance with Standards.

The Commission finds Evergreen Valley College out of compliance with the following Standards: II.A.2, II.A.7, and II.A.16 (Recommendation 5);

Need to Resolve Deficiencies

Standards represent practices that lead to academic quality and institutional effectiveness and sustainability. Deficiencies in institutional policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes which lead to non-compliance with any Standard will impact institutional quality and, ultimately, the educational environment and experience of students. The evaluation team has provided recommendations that give guidance for how the institution may come into compliance with Standards.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission* found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc.

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Recommendation 5 (Compliance)

In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that the College further develop and implement a policy requiring increased regular and substantive contact for Distance Education courses, and subsequently evaluate DE courses for policy compliance. (Standards II.A.2, II.A.7, and II.A.16)

Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 and District Recommendations 2, 4, and 5 for improving institutional effectiveness (improvement recommendations). Additionally, the Commission changed College Recommendations 2 and 4 and District Recommendation 1 to recommendations to increase effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but highlight areas of practice for which College attention may be needed. Consistent with its policy to foster continuous improvement through the peer-review process, the Commission expects institutions to consider the advice for improvement offered. In the Midterm Report, the College will include any actions taken in response to the evaluation team's improvement recommendations.

Two-Year Rule

Under U.S. Department of Education enforcement regulations, the Commission is required to take immediate action to terminate the accreditation of an institution which is out of compliance with any Standards, or, alternatively, may provide an institution with additional notice and a deadline for coming into compliance that is no later than two years from when the institution was first informed of the non-compliance. With this letter, Evergreen Valley College is being provided with notice of the Standards for which it is out of compliance and is being provided time to meet the Standards.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet the Standards. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Team Report represent the best advice of the evaluation team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the College to come into compliance (or to improve).

A **final copy** of the Team Report is attached. Commission changes to the Report are noted on a separate page for inclusion with the Team Report. The College may now duplicate and post copies of the enclosed Team Report with this added page.

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The Commission requires the College give the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to those who were signatories of the ISER and to make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by posting copies to the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the collaborative work that Evergreen Valley College undertook to prepare for institutional self-evaluation, and to support the work of the external evaluation team. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Accreditation and peer review are most effective when the College and the ACCJC work together to focus on student outcomes and continuous quality improvement in higher education.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We would be glad to help you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", written in a cursive style.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
Interim President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. Debbie Budd, Chancellor, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District

Attachment