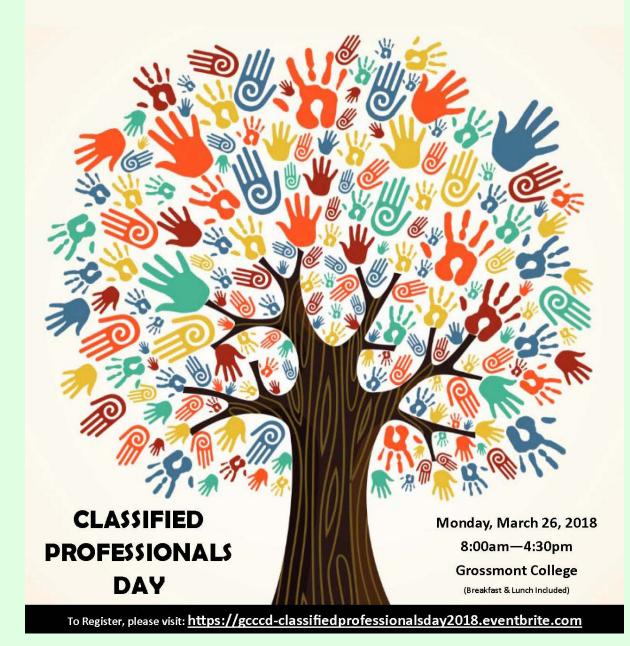


FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1 • GROSSMONT COLLEGE







Credit where credit is due:

Before I start this article, I would like to thank Mike Reese and Bonnie Ripley for the information I am using. They both have worked very hard to make a difficult subject something we can all understand. Thank you!

Accreditation

We have all heard of accreditation but I must admit that I have not always understood what it means. I hope the following information makes it a little easier to understand.

So what is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary system for the regulation of higher education quality. Institutions agree to join an association and to be bound to uphold the accrediting association's standards of quality and their policies. The association we are a part of is the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Accreditation is based on standards of best practice and provides colleges an opportunity to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the education we are giving our students. The ACCJC is made up of 19 commissioners who are elected for a 3 year term and a comprehensive evaluation is conducted every six years.

The journey to accreditation is made up of four components:

An internal evaluation known as the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER). This
process began last fall. An Accreditation Steering Committee was established and each
of the standards listed below were divided up and assigned to four sub - committees.
Each team has a tri-chair consisting of one classified professional, one member of
faculty and an administrator. The standards listed below have the names of the classified
chairs on each task force.

What Are We Accountable For?

The Four Standards:

STANDARD I:	Mission, Academic Effectiveness	e Quality and Institutional Cindy Emerson
STANDARD II:	Student Learning	Programs and Services
		Wayne Branker
STANDARD III:	Resources	Bernadette Black
STANDARD IV:	Leadership & Governance	
		Monica Blando

- 2. An external evaluation. This is when we have ACCJC a volunteer team of college faculty and administrators on campus. In preparation for the site visit, the team reviews the ISER. The site visit results in a report by the visiting team called an External Evaluation Report (EER).
- 3. ACCJC accreditation action. This is when the decision on whether or not to grant accreditation status is made. This decision is based on the EER.
- 4. Continuous institutional improvement. This is a "what do we do next" review.

Why is Accreditation Important?

- Accreditation ensures that our institution is offering a quality education to all of our students.
- Accreditation makes our students eligible for federal financial aid. Without financial aid, many of our students would not realize their dreams of a college education.
- Transfer colleges require that students come from an accredited college. Accreditation assures the public that the education provided at our institution is of value to the student and that credentials earned can be accepted as legitimate.

Who is Responsible?

The short answer is **EVERYONE**!

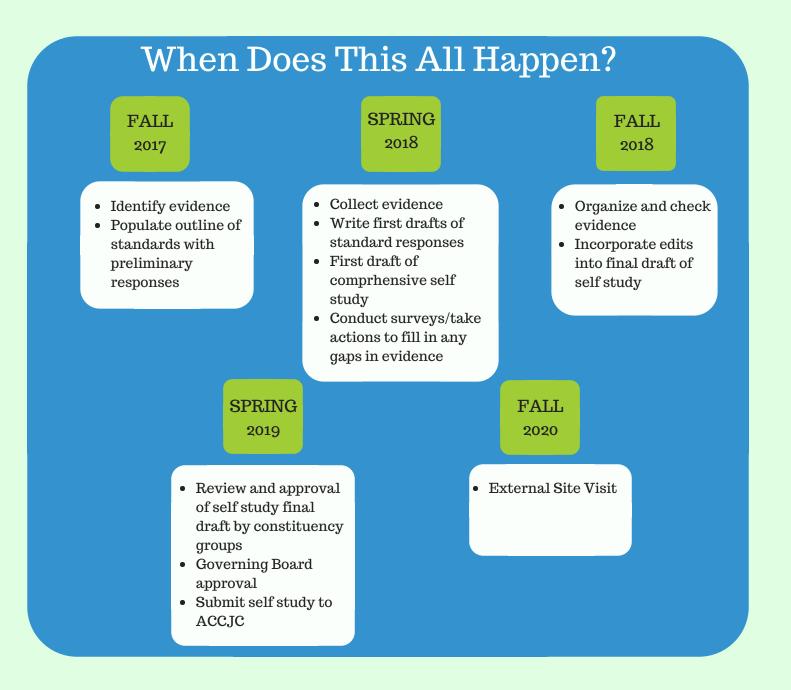
More specifically:

- *Accreditation co-chairs are responsible for managing process and completing the work.
- *Steering committee (standard tri-chairs) contribute to writing/collecting evidence, and managing the process for their standard.
- *Four Standard Teams write/collect evidence for standard items.
- *College employees and students contribute information, examples, evidence, and review and feedback on drafts.

Interim Dean of the College Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (CPIE) Mike Reese is our Campus Accreditation Liaison Officer. He is the college expert on accreditation. His job is to communicate directly with ACCJC and is responsible for submitting the reports.

As you can see, accreditation is a group effort and requires all hands on deck in order for us to maintain our accreditation.

Grossmont College has a strong history for excellence in education and with our participation we can continue this tradition. The accreditation process allows us to brag about our accomplishments and to identify areas for improvement. This process also allows us the opportunity to come together as a campus, classified professionals, faculty, and administrators, working together for a worthy common goal.



March 26th is Classified Professionals Day

It is also the day that voting opens for the Grossmont College Classified Senate Constitution. You can read the constitution here:

https://www.grossmont.edu/college-info/about-grossmont/org-gov structures/gcccs/docs/Bylaws/Approved%20Draft%20Constitution.pdf

Brought To You By...

Grossmont College Classified

Senate





Monica Blando President



Bryan Lam Vice President



Cindy Emerson Treasurer



Elaine Adlam Secretary



Tyler Dranguet Senator

Your ideas and suggestions are needed! If you have a story idea or you would like to ask a question regarding Classified Senate or things that colleagues might be helped by as well, let me know by emailing me at: Elaine.Adlam@gcccd.edu. For more information about what Senate is working on go to: * our website: http://www.gcccd.edu/classified-senate/default.html