# Accreditation 2026

ACADEMIC SENATE WORKSHOP

*APRIL 11, 2024*
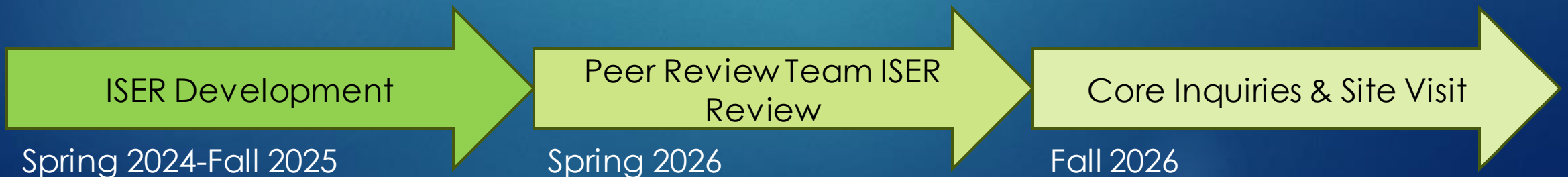
*BRI HAYS & KIM DUDZIK*

# Accreditation: What it is and isn't

- Peer review process
- Grounded in effective practices (standards)
- Member institutions "opt in" and agree to meet these standards of practice
- Regional accreditors are now "institutional accreditors"
- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) – only accreditor focused exclusively on 2-year institutions

# Benefits of Accreditation

► Establishes standards of effective practice

► Provides an opportunity to regularly pause, reflect, and implement improvements

► Authorizes the colleges to participate in the federal Title IV Financial Aid program

► Allows for students to transfer credit between institutions

► Communicates to our community that we adhere to standards of effective practice

# ACCJC Accreditation Process

- Currently a 7-year cycle

- Begins with **institutional self-evaluation** in relation to the standards

- Institutional self-evaluation report is completed, then a one-year process begins

  - Peer review team reviews report

  - Additional evidence is requested/gathered

  - Team identifies any core inquiries

  - Site visit is held ~6 months later with a small, focused team

| ISER Development | Peer Review Team ISER Review | Core Inquiries & Site Visit |
|---|---|---|
| Spring 2024-Fall 2025 | Spring 2026 | Fall 2026 |

# Academic Senate Role in Maintaining Accredited Status

▶ Help recruit faculty to serve on an Accreditation Core Evaluation (ACE) team

▶ *Help ACE team members locate information and evidence to respond to accreditation standards that pertain to the Senate's work*

  ○ *Minutes, agendas, attachments*

▶ Share insights to help ensure we are meeting accreditation standards

  ○ Look for ways to collect feedback/data/information and make improvements

▶ Document Senate processes, policies, procedures, and outcomes

▶ Encourage colleagues to complete program reviews and outcome assessments and use both to inform plans/improvements

▶ Review progress/drafts of the ISER

# ACCJC 2024 Accreditation Standards Overview & Activity

# ACCJC Standards

▶ ACCJC revises standards every ~10 years

▶ Previous accreditation cycle focused on 2014 standards

▶ New accreditation cycle will be on new 2024 standards

▶ 4 overarching standard areas, 30 total standards + evidence requirements

   ▶ Standard 1: Institutional Mission & Effectiveness

   ▶ Standard 2: Student Success

   ▶ Standard 3: Infrastructure & Resources

   ▶ Standard 4: Governance & Decision-Making

# Norming the Standards: Standard 2.4

The institution communicates clear, accurate, and accessible information regarding programs, services, and resources that foster success in students' unique educational journeys. (ER 20)

# Standard 2.4

Review Criteria

▶ The institution provides students with accurate, current, and consistent student learning outcomes for the courses and programs in which they are enrolled.

▶ The institution has mechanisms for ensuring effective communication with its students in multiple modalities regarding the programs, services, and resources available to support the student journey.

▶ The institution regularly reviews its communication practices, policies, procedures to ensure clarity, consistency, accuracy, and relevance.

# Standard 2.4

**Possible Sources of Evidence Could Include:**

- Program information (from catalog, website, etc.) showing program learning outcomes for degree and certificate programs

- Documents outlining institution's processes for communicating learning outcomes to students

- Sample syllabi and corresponding course outlines

- Information (from catalog, website, etc.) regarding available student support services and learning support resources

- Samples of student-facing communications in multiple formats, modalities, and (if applicable) languages, tailored to meet the needs of specific student populations

- Examples of how the institution evaluates the effectiveness of its student-facing communications (communication survey results, website/social media analytics, processes for ensuring consistency of messages across multiple communication platforms, etc.)

- Examples of changes/improvements in communication--in messaging, format, or modality resulting from evaluations

# Breakout Activity: 10 MINUTES

## Group 1: Standard 2.6

- The institution uses delivery modes and teaching methodologies that meet student and curricular needs and promote equitable student learning and achievement.

## Group 2: Standard 2.7

- The institution designs and delivers equitable and effective services and programs that support students in their unique educational journeys, address academic and non-academic needs, and maximize their potential for success. Such services include library and learning resources, academic counseling and support, and other services the institution identifies as appropriate for its mission and student needs. (ER 15, ER 17)

## Group 3: Standard 2.8

- The institution fosters a sense of belonging and community with its students by providing multiple opportunities for engagement with the institution, programs, and peers. Such opportunities reflect the varied needs of the student population and effectively support students' unique educational journeys. (ER 15)

## Group 4: Standard 2.9

- The institution conducts systematic review and assessment to ensure the quality of its academic, learning support, and student services programs and implement improvements and innovations in support of equitable student achievement. (ER 11, ER 14)

# Group Activity Report-Outs

DO WE MEET THE STANDARD, FULLY OR IN PART?

WHAT EVIDENCE DID YOU FIND TO SHOW THAT WE MEET THE STANDARD?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO/CHANGE TO BETTER MEET THE STANDARD?

# Accreditation 2026 Timeline (Updated)

| Time Frame | Activity/Milestone | Outcome/Deliverable |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2023 | ACCJC Training, Begin Assembling ACE Teams | ACE Teams Identified |
| Spring 2024 | ACE Team Training and Evidence Gathering | First Draft of ISER Completed |
| Summer 2024 | Regulatory Compliance Items Drafted | ISER Front Matter Drafted |
| Fall 2024 | ACE Teams Refine Narratives, Update Evidence | Second Draft of ISER Completed |
| Spring 2025 | ACE Teams Make Final Updates | Third Draft of ISER Completed |
| Summer 2025 | ALOs, Faculty Co-Chairs Inventory Evidence | Evidence Inventory Completed |
| Fall 2025 | ALOs, Faculty Co-Chairs Finalize ISERs | Final ISER Submitted to ACCJC |
| Spring 2026 | Peer Review Team Reviews ISER | Peer Review Team Report Drafted Core Inquiries Identified |
| Fall 2026 | College Site Visits | Peer Review Team Report Finalized |
| January 2027 | ACCJC Determines College Accreditation Status | Accreditation Action Letter Sent to Colleges, Posted to Websites |

We need your help to ensure we are living our accreditation standards 365 days out of the year!

# Questions?