

What is Accreditation?

“Accreditation” is review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.

— Council for Higher Education Accreditation

The Value of Accreditation

- Qualification for federal grants and contracts (e.g., HSI, AANAPISI, TRIO, etc.)
- Qualification to distribute federal financial aid to students
- Transferability of student course credits to other accredited institutions

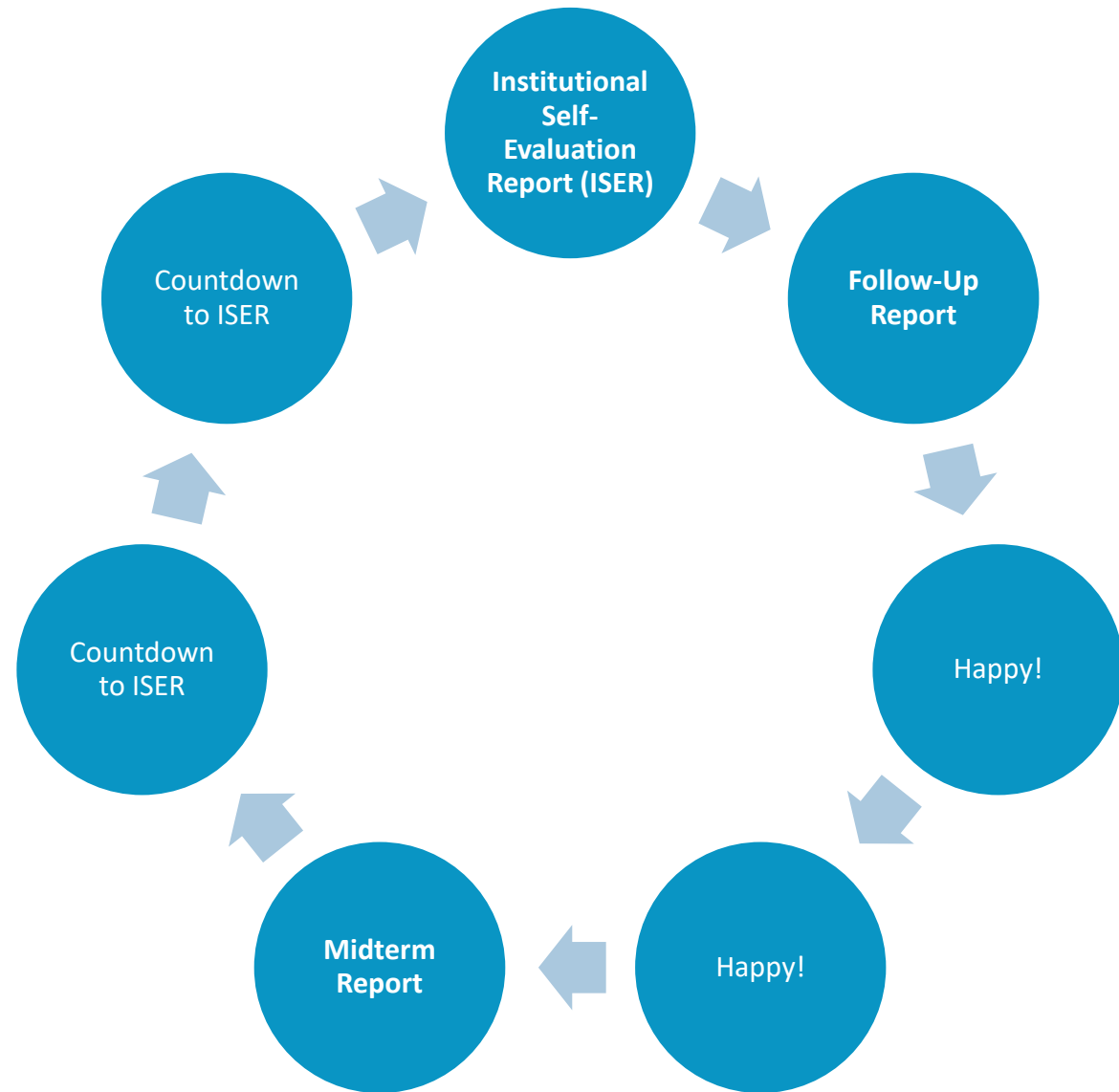
The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

- Part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Funded by member institutions
- The Commission, consisting of 19 members elected by ACCJC member institutions, determines the accredited status of an institution
- Define and uphold Accreditation Standards

Reports to the ACCJC

- Institutional Self-Evaluation Report
 - Update on Core Inquiries
 - Site Visit
- Follow-Up Report
- Midterm Report
- Substantive Change Report
- Annual Report
- Annual Fiscal Report

Ye Olde 7-year Accreditation Cycle



The Comprehensive Peer Review

- Process by which ACCJC reaffirms our accreditation
- 2 broad purposes
 - Ensure compliance with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, Commission policies, and federal regulations related to accreditation
 - Support and encourage institutions as they strive for continuous improvement of student outcomes and institutional effectiveness in pursuit of their mission

The Comprehensive Peer Review

- 4 steps
 - Institutional self-evaluation and ISER development
 - Peer review
 - Commission review and action
 - Institutional response to recommendations and ongoing improvement

Leadership

- Chief Executive Officer
- Accreditation Liaison Officer
- Designated Organizing Committee
- Governing Board

Accreditation Standards

- Focus on an institution's continuous quality improvement efforts around:
 - Student learning
 - Student achievement
 - The closure of institutional equity gaps
- Provide a framework for best practices that will lead to achievement of the institution's mission, promote student success, academic quality, institutional integrity, and excellence