WSCUC Reaccreditation

Institutional Self-Study Overview and Updates

Karin Elliott Brown, Dean of Graduate Studies, ALO
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What Is WSCUC Accreditation?

• Accreditation is a process of external quality review which serves to assure students, parents, policymakers, the broader educational community, and the general public that an institution has met high standards of effectiveness.

• The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) is one of seven regional accrediting agencies in the U.S. and is the accrediting body for Cal State LA.

• Every six, eight, or ten years, institutions accredited by WSCUC are reviewed to reaffirm their accreditation status.

• Cal State LA received its last reaffirmation of accreditation in March of 2011. Cal State LA is currently preparing for the next reaffirmation of accreditation review scheduled for 2019.
Why Is WSCUC Accreditation Important?

- Accreditation promotes a culture of **continuous improvement** at institutions and serves as a guide for meaningful changes to occur across policies, institutional procedures, curricula, and institutional resources.

- For institutions to **receive federal funding**, including funding that is dispersed to students through financial aid programs, they must be accredited by a nationally-recognized accrediting body.

- Accreditation also helps to ensure that credits and degrees are **recognized for purposes of employment and transfer or admission** to other institutions.
**WSCUC Steering Committee**

- Karin Elliott Brown (ALO)
- Michael Willard (A&L)
- Holly Menzies (CCOE)
- Benjamin Lee (ECST)
- Andre Ellis (NSS)
- Laura Whitcomb (B&E)
- William London (HHS)
- Jennifer Miller (Dean of Students)
- Amy Bippus (Vice Provost for Planning and Budget)
- Parviz Partow (Planning Support)
- Jessica Dennis (Interim Director of Assessment)
- Michele Dunbar (Associate Director of Institutional Research)

**Essay 3**

**Degree Programs - Meaning, Quality and Integrity of the Degree**

**Lead**: Michael Willard  
**Co-Lead**: Michele Dunbar  
**Members**:  
1. Ralph Goldstein  
2. Christopher Harris  
3. Catherine Haras  
4. Michelle Hawley

**Essay 4**

**Educational Quality - Student learning, Core Competencies and Standards of Performance at Graduation**

**Lead**: Holly Menzies  
**Co-Lead**: Jessica Dennis  
**Members**:  
1. Gabriela Simon-Cereijido  
2. Wayne Tikkanen  
3. Michele Dunbar  
4. Diane Fazzi

**Essay 5**

**Student success, student learning retention, and graduation**

**Lead**: Benjamin Lee  
**Co-Lead**: Jennifer Miller  
**Members**:  
1. Rebecca Joseph  
2. Xin Wen  
3. Mark Pavelchak

**Essay 6**

**Quality Assurance and Improvement; Program review; Assessment; use of data and evidence**

**Lead**: Andre Ellis  
**Co-Lead**: David Connors  
**Members**:  
1. Ming Wang  
2. Anne Hafner  
3. Karin Elliott Brown  
4. Marla Peppers

**Essay 7**

**Sustainability: Financial Viability; Preparing for the Changing Higher Education Environment**

**Lead**: Laura Whitcomb  
**Co-Lead**: Laila Asgari  
**Members**:  
1. Liam Leonard  
2. Beth Hoffman  
3. Mae Santos  
4. Thomas Pokladowski
Four Standards of Accreditation

Standard 1: Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives

Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objectives Through Core Functions

Standard 3: Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability

Standard 4: Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement
Evaluating the Four Standards: Criteria for Review

• WSCUC uses 37 Criteria for Review, or CFRs, to evaluate how an institution is meeting the Four Standards of Accreditation.

• Each of the four Standards has between 8 and 14 CFRs that address various topics, including teaching and learning, student success measures, information and technology resources, faculty and staff, advising, research and scholarly activity, and many others.

• Cal State LA’s self-assessment of these CFRs serves as the basis for Essay 2 of the Institutional Report.
How can you participate?

Take the Self-Assessment

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSULA-WASC17

The survey includes the following topics:

- Diversity
- Student Support and Services
- Student Success Measures
- Teaching and Learning - General
- Teaching and Learning - Graduate Programs
- Teaching and Learning - Performance Standards
- Teaching and Learning - Learning Outcomes
- Faculty and Staff
- Institutional Purpose and Educational Objectives
- Academic Freedom
- Transparency
- Information and Technology Resources
- Organization and Decision-Making
- Quality Assurance Processes
- Institutional Learning and Improvement
Future Opportunities for Participation

• We welcome on-going feedback through the WSCUC website.
  • [http://www.calstatela.edu/apra/opportunities-input-and-participation](http://www.calstatela.edu/apra/opportunities-input-and-participation)

• Town Halls will be scheduled during Fall 2017 to obtain feedback on the Institutional Self-Study and report before it is finalized and sent to the WSCUC team.
Cal State LA
WSCUC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Timeline

**FALL 2016**
- Establish process and timelines for completing WSCUC Self Study
- Establish Steering Committee
- Establish writing teams for essays
- Establish Core Competencies Assessment Team
- Develop communications plan to inform and engage campus community with WSCUC Self-Study process
- Develop Institutional Assessment Plan for 2016-2020
- WSCUC Steering Committee first meeting
- Barbara Gross Davis (WSCUC Institutional Liaison) campus visit
- Plan for Self-Review under the WSCUC Standards: Criteria for Review (CFRs)

**SPRING/SUMMER 2017**
- Collect survey data from campus community (faculty, staff, students, and administrators) on WSCUC Standards for Essay 2
- Essay writing teams convene twice per month to collect data and write draft essays
- Exhibits compiled in electronic database
- Writing team leads complete drafts of each essay (Summer)
- Steering Committee completes Institutional Review/Self-Study draft (Summer)

**FALL 2017**
- Town hall discussions/electronic feedback on essay drafts
- Drafts circulated to President, Provost, Senate, other members of campus community

**SPRING/SUMMER 2018**
- Prepare Institutional Report in final electronic form with links
- Submit Institutional Report to WSCUC

**FALL 2018**
- Conduct Off-Site Review via Video Conference with WSCUC team

**SPRING 2019**
- Conduct on-site/campus visit with WSCUC team

**TIMELINE**
- **Spring/Summer 2017**: 6 Months
- **Fall 2016**: 10 Weeks

GOAL:

10 years of reaffirmed accreditation!!