Accreditation

Spring 2023 College Assembly
April 10, 2023

What is Accreditation and why is it important?

- Accreditation is a practice of academic quality control.
  - **Promotes** institutional excellence through application of standards.
  - **Advances** meaningful and effective **student learning and achievement**.
  - **Provides** assurance to students, general public, & others of quality of educational offerings.
- Accreditation is a **peer review driven process**.

Why Do Colleges Seek Accreditation?

- Access to Title IV (Federal Financial Aid)
- Recognition for transfer
- Assure quality to the public and students
- Ensure institutions are aligned with their missions
- Improve academic quality, effectiveness, and student success

Who is ACCJC?

- Institutional accreditor recognized by U.S. Dept. of Education

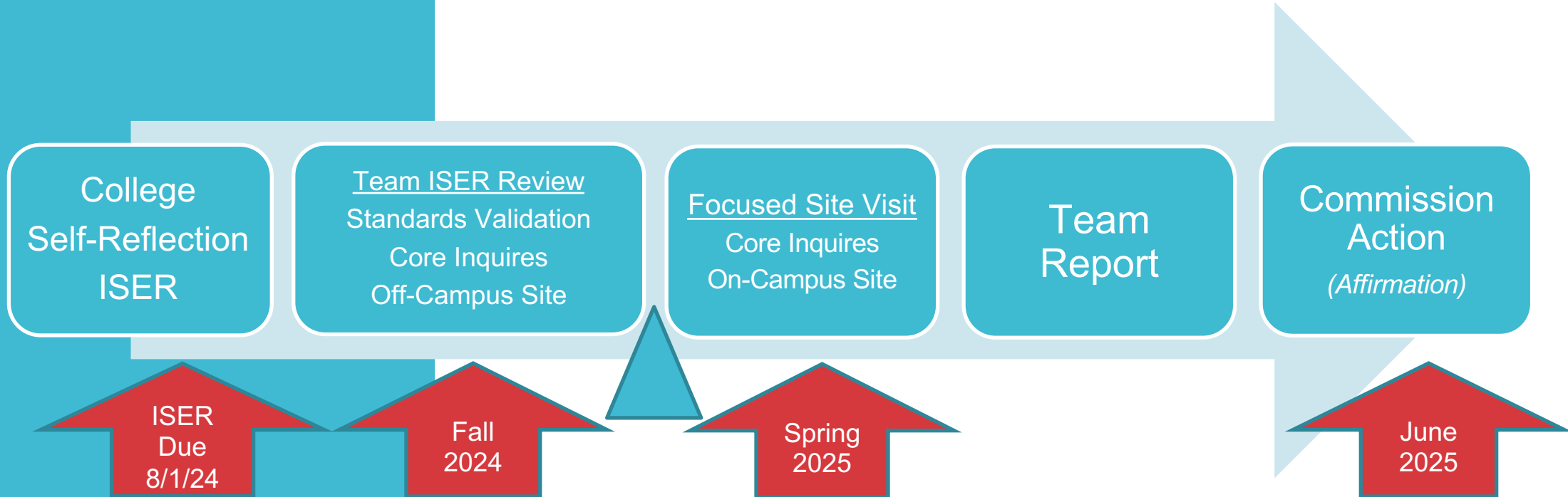- Works **collegially** with member colleges to advance educational quality

ACCJC

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

Formative/Summative Comprehensive Peer Review

College Self-Reflection ISER

Team ISER Review
Standards Validation
Core Inquires
Off-Campus Site

Focused Site Visit
Core Inquires
On-Campus Site

Team Report

Commission Action
(Affirmation)

ISER Due 8/1/24

Fall 2024

Spring 2025

June 2025

What's Different: 2024 Accreditation Standards Pilot Changes

- 30 (new) vs. 126 (old) accreditation standards
- Greater focus on outcomes and equity and innovation
- Mission focused
- No QFE
- Data incorporated into relevant responses
- One narrative response per standard
- 8 year cycle for those reviewed per 2024 Accreditation Standards

STANDARD

1

Institutional Mission & Effectiveness

Mission & Effectiveness

GCC has a clearly defined mission that reflects its character, values, organizational structure, and unique student population.

GCC's mission outlines its explicit commitment to equitable student achievement and serves as a guiding principle for institutional planning, action, evaluation, improvement, and innovation.

FOCUS:
-OUTCOMES
-INNOVATION
-IMPROVEMENT

Required Documentation

- GCC's procedures/practices for periodic review of mission/mission related statements that include all stakeholders
- Documentation of GCC's governing board's approval of the institutional mission.
- Procedures/processes for setting institutional goal, including provisions for the inclusion of input from stakeholders.
- Documentation that GCC has established standards and goals for student achievement.

STANDARD

2

Student Success

In alignment with its mission, GCC delivers high-quality academic and learning support programs that engage and support students through their unique educational journeys.

Academic and learning support programs promote equitable student success, and GCC evaluates student learning and achievement data to inform improvements and advance equitable outcomes.

FOCUS:
-OUTCOMES
-INNOVATION
-IMPROVEMENT

Required Documentation

- Policies and/or other documentation regarding transfer of credit
- Documentation of minimum degree requirements
- Policies/procedures related to program discontinuance
- Policies related to catalog, communication, recruiting, admissions, enrollment, etc.
- Documentation that the catalog provides information regarding the purpose, content, requirements, and expected learning outcomes of degree and certificate programs.
- Policies/process for student complaints.
- Verification that all student records are stored appropriately.
- Policies/practices for release of student records.

3

Infrastructure and Resources

Infrastructure and Resources

- GCC supports its educational services and operational functions with effective infrastructure, qualified personnel, and stable finances.

- GCC organizes its staffing and allocates its physical, technological, and financial resources to improve its overall effectiveness and promote equitable student success.

- GCC actively monitors and assesses resource capacity to inform improvements to infrastructure and ensure long-term health and stability.

FOCUS:
-OUTCOMES
-INNOVATION
-IMPROVEMENT

Required Documentation

- Written policies and procedures for human resources.
- Employee handbooks or similar documents that communicate expectations to employees.
- Written code of professional ethics for personnel.
- Financial audit reports
- Practices for resources allocation and budget development
- Policies around Title IV
- Policies guiding fiscal management
- Policies, procedures, or agreements related to appropriate use of technology systems

STANDARD

4

Governance & Decision Making

GCC engages in clear and effective governance practices that support the achievement of its mission.

Governance roles and responsibilities are delineated in widely distributed policies, and institutional decision-making processes provide opportunities for meaningful participation and inclusion of relevant stakeholders.

FOCUS:
-OUTCOMES
-INNOVATION
-IMPROVEMENT

Required Documentation

- Governing board policies/procedures for selecting and regularly evaluating its chief executive officer
- Governing board policies/procedures/bylaws relating to board ethics
- Governing board policies/procedures/bylaws related to conflict of interest

FOCUS:
- OUTCOMES
- INNOVATION
- IMPROVEMENT

Questions to consider as we develop our ISER

What is GCC doing to align with the standard?

Why is GCC doing what it is doing?

How does GCC support equity and innovation?

What lessons have we learned from this journey?

What does GCC plan to do differently to promote innovation?