

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES (ACCJC)

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

In accordance with the [2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraph 43](#), this summary of recognition status describes the formal action taken by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors with regard to an accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA.

Profile of Accrediting Organization

Type of Accreditor: Institutional

Number of institutions: 133

Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation

Associate degree-granting institutions in California, Hawaii, the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (2003)

CHEA Recognition Information

History: Recognized by CHEA in January 2003

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, September 28-29, 2015

Decision: Return the matter to the Committee on Recognition for further consideration

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (*2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

The Board of Directors acted to return the matter to the CHEA Committee on Recognition for further review and consideration based on additional information received and not available to the Committee at its June 2015 review.

Prior Actions on ACCJC's Application for Recognition

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting September 29-30, 2014: The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (*2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

The Board of Directors deferred recognition and requested additional information with regard to ACCJC's meeting CHEA Standards 12E1-4 (*2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*). These standards address the organization's sustaining (1) ongoing critical self-review (12E.1), (2) initiatives to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of services to institutions (12E.2), (3) review of the value of the accrediting organization to the institution and to the higher education community (12E.3) and (4) review of the impact of its standards and procedures on institutions (12E.4).

ACCJC is required to report on its self-examination and actions taken as a result of self-reflection and how this can enhance the balance between judgments about accredited status and assistance to institutions to strengthen academic quality and improve. Specifically, the board is seeking information about how ACCJC, based on this self-evaluation, will conduct its operation in the future with regard to the flexibility and responsiveness in its relationships with institutions and the public, how ACCJC will further enhance services and value to institutions and, overall, how ACCJC is examining its impact on institutions, the accreditation and higher education communities and the public, as called for in Standards 12E1-4.

Posted: October 5, 2015