

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges



Public Disclosure Notice

for

Merritt College

June 29, 2015

*This Notice has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries about accreditation status, consistent with the Commission's policies on public disclosure. It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Accredited Status for **Merritt College**. This Notice has been reviewed by **Merritt College**, and the institution has been notified of the opportunity to submit a response to this notice. If the College has responded to the Public Disclosure Notice, an electronic link to the institutional response will be found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org in the Directory of Accredited Institution, with the information for **Merritt College**.*

Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (the Commission or ACCJC) certifies that a college has been found to meet rigorous requirements for quality and that there are reasonable grounds for believing it will continue to meet them. The Commission's requirements can be found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Eligibility Requirements & Standards (or [click here](#)). The accreditation process requires an institution to open itself to examination by a group of professionals who evaluate the degree to which an institution meets the Standards. The Standards set requirements for quality that cover many aspects of the college, including: instruction, student support services, library and learning resources, physical environment, technology services, financial management, institutional governance, institutional integrity and honesty, and achievement of institutional mission. Accreditation is awarded only after an institution demonstrates that it complies with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies. The Commission reviews the overall quality of each institution every six years. If an institution is found to need improvements, it may be required to undergo additional reviews and monitoring by the Commission.

Summary of Recent Commission Actions

The Commission imposed **Probation** on **Merritt College** when the Commission, at its June 3-5, 2015 meeting, reviewed the institution's adherence to the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies as part of a comprehensive review. The institution remains accredited during this period and is required to make improvements to address the Commission's findings of non-compliance.

Probation is imposed when an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies, but not to such an extent as to warrant a Show Cause order or the termination of accreditation, or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission, including a warning. The Commission will specify the time within which the institution must resolve deficiencies. If probation is imposed as a result of the institution's comprehensive review, reaffirmation of accreditation is delayed during the period of probation. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period.

The Commission took this action because it determined that **Merritt College** is out of compliance with elements of the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies described below. The full text of the Eligibility Requirements and Standards can be found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Eligibility Requirements & Standards (or [click here](#)).

The Commission determined that **Merritt College** is out of compliance with the following requirements: Eligibility Requirements 10, 18, and 19; Standards I.A.3, I.A.4, I.B, I.B.1-6, II.A, II.A.1, II.A.1.c, II.A.2, II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.c, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f-h, II.A.5, II.A.6 II.A.6.b, II.B, II.B.3.c, II.B.4, II.C, II.C.2, III.A.1.b, III.A.2, III.A.6, III.B.1, III.B.1.a, III.B.2, III.B.2.a, III.B.2.b, III.C.2, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.b, III.D.3.h, III.D.4, IV.A.2.a-b, IV.A.3, IV.B.1, IV.B.1.a, IV.B.1.e, IV.B.1.j, IV.B.2.a, IV.B.2.b, IV.B.3, IV.B.3.b, IV.B.3.c, IV.B.3.g.

Additional Information in Understanding this Notice

An accreditation team of professional educators has evaluated **Merritt College**, written a report summarizing its findings, and provided recommendations to the institution to meet Eligibility Requirements and Standards. This report and the action letter from the Commission, which specifies the next steps the institution must take, provide a detailed description of the reasons for Probation. All institutions are required to make the evaluation team reports and the action letters available to the public. This is usually accomplished by placing these documents on the college website, and the public is directed to seek these documents from the institution directly. Colleges are invited to prepare a response to this notice, and this information may be posted on the college website.

Current Status and Expected Accreditation Activities

Merritt College will be monitored by the Commission and required to submit a Follow-Up Report to the Commission in October 2016. The Commission will conduct a team visit to assess the institution's compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies. The Commission will review both reports at its meeting in January 2017. If the Commission determines that **Merritt College** has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies, the Commission may act to remove Probation. If the Commission determines that sufficient progress to demonstrate compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies has not been made, the Commission may take further action as permitted under the Commission's "Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions." The Commission policies can be found in the *Accreditation Reference Handbook* which is located on the ACCJC

website at: www.accjc.org under Publications and Policies / All Commission Publications and Policies (or [click here](#)).

Helpful Resources for Understanding this Notice

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful in understanding the Commission's actions and the accreditation status of **Merritt College**.

- A “Statement of Accreditation Status” for Merritt College is available upon request from the Commission office.
- The Commission's Accreditation Standards can be found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Eligibility Requirements & Standards (or [click here](#)).
- “Informing the Public About Accreditation,” published by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, provides additional information on the nature and value of accreditation. It is available at (http://www.chea.org/public_info/index.asp),
- The “Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions” lists the actions the Commission may apply to institutions under review. It is available in the *Accreditation Reference Handbook* which is located on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Publications and Policies / All Commission Publications and Policies (or [click here](#)).
- The “Policy on Public Disclosure and Confidentiality in the Accreditation Process” describes the Commission's policy and procedures for making information available to the public. It is available in the *Accreditation Reference Handbook* which is located on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Publications and Policies / All Commission Publications and Policies (or [click here](#)).