



Questions and Answers to the ACCJC Accreditation Action on Merritt College- June 29, 2015

College Accredited?

- Yes. Merritt College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (The Commission). The Commission's requirements can be found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org under Eligibility Requirements & Standards. The College continues to offer quality programs and services, course and program articulations continues, and special programs and services meet industry standards and regulations.

What is the Accreditation status of Merritt College?

- Accredited - On Probation
- The Commission imposed Probation. ***The institution remains accredited*** during *probation* and is required to make improvements to address the Commission's findings of non-compliance.

What does *probation* mean?

- Probation is imposed when an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies.

What are a few examples of key findings?

- Institutional Mission
 - Implement policy and procedure for systematic review of the college mission statement.
 - Implement an evidence-based process that links institutional planning and decision-making to college mission.
- Institutional Effectiveness:
 - Linkages between planning, program review, Student Learning Outcomes assessment, and resource allocation with sustainable and delineated roles of participation and on-going evaluation of processes and the impact to student learning and achievement.
 - Accelerate completion of comprehensive program review and annual program updates (APUs) for all instruction, student services, learning resources, and administrative services and ensure that the process is systematic, integrated to college planning and resource allocation and utilized for continuous program improvement.
 - Accelerate the identification and documentation of student learning outcomes for all courses, programs, certificates and degrees; assess student attainment of those outcomes to ensure high quality and to make improvements.
 - College set standards for student achievement and systematically assesses college's progress in meeting the standards.
- Human Resources
 - College must follow a systematically complete all personnel evaluations.
 - College must assess and determine the adequate number of qualified faculty and staff to support the College's mission.
- Overall, the commission provided the college with 9 college recommendations; 8 District recommendations; and 1 commission concern.

What are the next steps for Merritt College?

- 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 following the October 2016 report 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*.