



SACS Update



Wharton County Junior College

March 2008

SACS Compliance Certification Report Set for March Submission

The meticulous task of checking source documentation and Web links in the SACS Compliance Certification document is in its last days. Outside readers will then review the links and submit any corrections in order to mail the document on March 12. Previously, outside readers reviewed the document for grammar and other content issues.

With this document submission, the process of Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) shifts from WCJC's self-evaluation to an Off-Site Review Committee. It is this committee's task to determine WCJC's compliance with SACS Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards in light of its mission, policies, procedures, programs, resources, services and other related activities. Committee members are employed by colleges outside of Texas making this a peer-review process.

This off-site committee of nine submits a report to SACSCOC in May after reading WCJC's Compliance Certification document. The SACSCOC staff reviews this report in June and sends the findings to WCJC by the end of the month.

Work then shifts back to WCJC and includes the following:

- WCJC will write a Focused Report in July/August to address any non-compliant areas. This report is due six weeks prior to arrival of the On-Site Review Committee.
- The on-site review takes place October 20-22, 2008. Committee members will verify the Focused Report, review the Quality Enhancement Plan and determine compliance with the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards. The committee, which is composed of a minimum of seven non-Texas college employees, will talk with faculty and students during the review.
- Upon conclusion of the on-site review, the committee conducts an exit conference with WCJC. The committee also submits a report to the Commission on Colleges to indicate areas of compliance and non-compliance with the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards.

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- WCJC submits a report to the Commission on Colleges in response to these recommendations and the COC reviews to determine compliance. Upon conclusion of the Commission's review of the on-site committee report, WCJC will receive notice of full compliance or the need to continue reporting progress toward compliance.

Input Gathered on Curriculum for New Student Success Course Roundtables held February 27

Based on feedback received from the fall 2007 Q&A and focus group sessions and input and approval from the WCJC Leadership Team, the QEP Committee has selected a student success course as the implementation strategy for the "First-Year Student Experience." This course will provide students with a foundation or framework to achieve their academic and career goals.

Faculty and staff were asked to provide input into the development of the curriculum modules at three roundtables held at the Wharton, Sugar Land and Fort Bend Tech Center Campuses on February 27.

Those unable to attend were requested to submit comments to QEPCommittee@wcjc.edu or to Patricia Rehak via campus mail.

The student success course, currently proposed as Psychology 1300/Education 1300, includes advising and orientation modules as well as modules for time management, study skills, learning theories, and other relevant "student success" topics. In the future, these modules may also be incorporated into "gateway" courses and other core courses to facilitate students' transition into college.

Additional information about the student success course, including the proposed course outline, may be viewed at www.wcjc.edu. Follow the "SACS Accreditation Review Project" located on the right lower portion of the home page.

