THE PURPOSE
Accreditation encourages institutions to improve academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and, ultimately, student success. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) focuses on two-year colleges in California, Hawaii, and the Western Pacific, through the application of standards of accreditation and related policies, and through a process of review by higher education professionals and public members.

WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS
The ACCJC evaluation of institutions assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations and agencies that an institution has clearly defined objectives appropriate to higher education; has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected; and appears in fact to be accomplishing them; is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to do so.

THE PROCESS
Each institution affiliated with the ACCJC accepts the obligation to participate in a cycle of periodic evaluation through institutional self-evaluation and review by teams of peer evaluators.

Teams conduct an evaluation review following completion of institutional self-evaluation in order to determine the extent to which an institution meets the Commission’s Standards. Team members, selected for their expertise, make recommendations to meet the Commission’s Standards, make recommendations for improvement, offer exemplary practices, and provide both the College and the Commission with a report of their findings.

THE STANDARDS
There are four Standards that work together to define and promote student success, academic quality, institutional integrity, and excellence. The mission provides a framework for all institutional goals and activities. The institution provides the means for students to learn and achieve their goals, assesses how well learning is occurring, and strives to improve learning and achievement through ongoing, systematic, and integrated evaluation and planning (Standard I). Student learning programs and support services make possible the academic quality that supports student success (Standard II). Human, physical, technology, and financial resources enable these programs and services to function and improve (Standard III). Ethical and effective leadership throughout the organization guides the accomplishment of the mission and supports institutional effectiveness and improvement (Standard IV). Integrating the elements of the Standards gives institutions the means to develop a comprehensive assessment of academic quality, institutional integrity and effectiveness, and a path to continuous improvement.
THE STANDARDS
The Ohlone Community College District President/Superintendent, Dr. Gari Browning, has the primary leadership role for accreditation. The Accreditation Liaison Officer is the second point of contact, responsible as the liaison between the College and the ACCJC. He is also responsible for collecting information and for providing guidance as to what goes into the report, training for participants, and answers to questions.

The third group is the organizing committee or the College Council. Ohlone’s College Council is the steering committee for Accreditation with assigned leadership and teams that are organized by each Standard.

TRANSPARENCY
The ACCJC requires each accredited institution to make public its Reports to the Commission, External Evaluation Team Reports, and Commission Action letters, by placing the documents on the institution’s website as well as other locations accessible to students and the public.

All College Council members are part of Accreditation teams assigned to a Standard.

College Council ensures appropriate progress is being made on the report, ensures that evidence and the report are shared with the College, and endorses the final draft of the report that will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The report is due to the ACCJC in January 2020, followed by a site visit on March 9-12, 2020. ACCJC will determine Ohlone’s accredited status at its June 2020 meeting, and the College should receive the results in July.