

June 29, 2020

Dr. Gari Browning, Superintendent/President
Ohlone College
43600 Mission Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94539

Dear Dr. Browning:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 10-12, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Ohlone College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 9–12, 2020.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and Require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than October 1, 2021, followed by a visit from a peer review team.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Ohlone College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Standard I.A.3 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for aligning its programs and services to the mission of serving diverse populations, particularly the Deaf community.

Standard III.D.9 (Commendation 2): The Commission commends the College for its strategic decision to maintain stable and healthy reserves in the event of unforeseen occurrences.

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the requirements below. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

Standard II.A.2 and ACCJC Policy on Distance and Correspondence Education (Requirement 1): In order to meet the Standard and the Commission Policy, the Commission requires that the College review and revise its existing processes and policies to ensure that faculty teaching online consistently provide regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Ohlone College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

¹ For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact Dr. Stephanie Droker or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.
ACCJC President



Ian Walton, Ph.D.
ACCJC Chair

cc: Mr. Michael Bowman, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure