



SJVC Re-accreditation

SJVC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The ACCJC is one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States. The ACCJC accredits institutions in the western region (California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Islands). In order to become accredited, an institution must demonstrate that it meets the ACCJC's accreditation standards, eligibility requirements, and policies.

Once accreditation is granted, ACCJC member institutions undergo a self-evaluation every seven years in order to maintain their accredited status. SJVC is currently undergoing the self-evaluation process. Information about this process is provided below.

Q: What is the self-evaluation?

A: As stated above, every ACCJC member institution accepts the responsibility to undergo a comprehensive review every seven years to maintain its accredited status. The self-evaluation is the first step in this process. This process serves the following purposes:

- Opportunity for the institution to conduct a thorough self-evaluation against the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies as well as the institution's own mission and objectives
- The self-evaluation is the foundation for the preparation of an Institutional Self-Evaluation Report and will inform the team visit that follows.

Q: What steps are involved in this process?

A: The first step is to organize the process – meaning, establish deadlines for each milestone such as the self-evaluation and preparation of the Self-Evaluation Report. Like most other institutions undergoing this process, SJVC formed a committee responsible for organizing and overseeing the self-evaluation process. This committee – which is referred to as the Steering Committee, includes most of SJVC's Senior Managers and the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). The Steering Committee developed a timeline to ensure that all components of this process are completed in a timely manner (see timeline below).

Next, the Steering Committee identified college employees who were given responsibility for leading the evaluation against one of the accreditation standards. The Standards Committee chairs/co-chairs were then given an extensive training on how to lead and conduct the evaluation process. The Steering Committee then asked each campus to designate individuals to serve on one of these committees.

The Standards Committees then went to work on their respective evaluations. As part of their evaluation, committees reviewed student learning and achievement data, college policies and procedures, publications, program review participation rates and action items, and other critical pieces of information and evidence related to the standards. This process informed each committee's conclusions on how well the College meets the accreditation standards as well as the identification of improvement plans.

Evaluation results were submitted to the Steering Committee. The ALO is using the results to create the Self-Evaluation Report. As seen in the timeline, the Self-Evaluation Report is slated for completion in fall 2018 and will be submitted to ACCJC in January 2019.

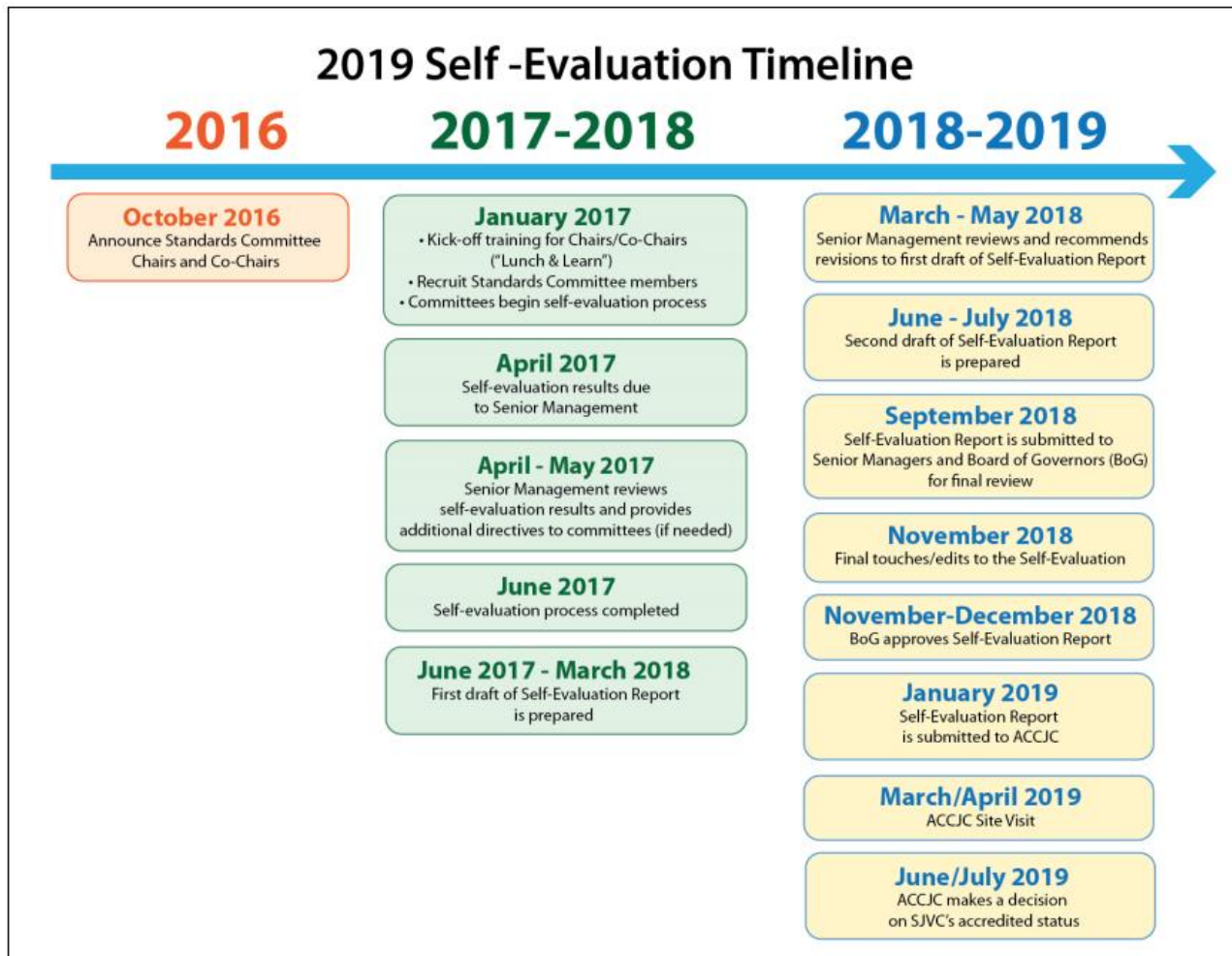
When the ACCJC receives the Self-Evaluation Report, a team comprised of individuals from other ACCJC-accredited institutions will be formed. This team will conduct a multi-day site visit. *Every SJVC campus will be visited.*

In preparation for the visit, the team will read SJVC's Self-Evaluation Report. During the visit, the team will attempt to verify the information in the Self-Evaluation Report and will form its own conclusions as to how well SJVC meets the accreditation standards.

The team will document their findings and conclusions in a report which will be submitted to the ACCJC. SJVC will have the opportunity to review the team report and correct any factual errors before it is sent to the ACCJC. The ACCJC will then make a decision on SJVC's accredited status at their next bi-annual meeting (June/July 2019).

Q: Where are we in this process?

A: As stated above, SJVC has developed a timeline for this process. The timeline identifies the major milestones in this process and the timelines for completion.



Q: How can I be involved in this process?

A: Many employees have already been involved in this process through their work as a member of a Standards Committee. Participation in the site visit is perhaps the next largest contribution any student or employee can make in this process. The visiting team will want to speak with students, faculty, and staff. Lastly, participation in surveys is a great way to be involved in this process. SJVC values input from its constituencies – this information is a critical component of the self-evaluation process.

For any further questions, please contact:

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