

ACCREDITATION AND APPROVALS

Michael Abril, Vice President of Regulatory and Legal Affairs

2015 Overview

2015 presented a stark contrast to 2014 for the Accreditation Department. The focus of 2014 was SJVC waiving its WASC exemption and voluntarily agreeing to become regulated by California’s Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) in order to comply with the United States Department of Education’s (USDE) state authorization regulations. The Accreditation’s Department focus in 2015 was less dramatic and more to the norm – obtaining approval for new programs and maintaining 47 programmatic accreditations or approvals. Another focus in 2015 was the Accreditation Department’s work on SJVC’s 2016 Mid-Term report to be submitted to SJVC’s institutional accreditor, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), in March 2016.

The Accreditation Departments major 2015 achievement was successfully obtaining approval from the Board of Registered Nursing and ACCJC to: 1) continue the education of nearly 120 RN students from the closed Everest College at SJVC’s Ontario campus as an alternative site of SJVC’s Visalia RN program; and 2) to admit new students at SJVC’s Ontario campus as an alternative site of SJVC’s Visalia RN program.

The Accreditation Departments efforts to obtain approval for SJVC’s proposed Baccalaureate of Science Degree Completion Program in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) experienced two setbacks. First, the ACCJC sub change committee requested clarification and the submission of supplemental materials. Second, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity prohibited ACCJC from accrediting additional baccalaureate-level programs pending ACCJC’s demonstration that ACCJC is in full compliance with federal regulations.

Therefore, assuming the submission of SJVC’s additional materials enables the sub change committee to approve SJVC’s BSRT sub-change application, ACCJC’s baccalaureate degree granting authorization may not be restored until late 2016, resulting in the delay in the commencement of SJVC’s BSRT program to the summer of 2017 at the earliest as other required approvals (BPPE and USDE) cannot be sought until ACCJC approval is obtained.

As of the end of 2015, 46 of SJVC’s 47 programmatic accreditations and approvals are in good standing with the 47th (the Visalia RN program) only limited in the number of new enrollments (see chart below).

Program	Approval By	VIS	BAK	FRE	AVI	ONT	ONL	MOD	RCO	HAN	HES	TEM	LAN	SAN	MAD/DEL
Aviation Maintenance Technology	FAA				YES										
Criminal Justice: Corrections	BSCC/STC	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES		YES	YES		YES		
Criminal Justice: Corrections	BSIS	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES		YES	YES		YES		
Dental Assisting	DBC	YES	YES	YES								YES			
Dental Hygiene *	CODA	YES												YES	
Emergency Services & Safety Management	Kern County Public Health Svcs Dept		YES												
Registered Nursing **	BRN	NO													
Respiratory Therapy	CoARC	YES	YES			YES			YES			YES			
Surgical Technology	ARC-STSA		YES	YES											
Veteran benefits ***	CSAAVE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Veterinary Technology	AVMA			YES											
Vocational Nursing	BVNPT	YES													
Approvals in Good Standing															46
Total															47
Good Standing %															98%
* Visalia and Ontario Dental Hygiene share CODA approval															
** Visalia and Ontario Registered Nursing now share BRN approval [Ontario location has now received alternate site generic student admission approval (in addition to having received approval to transfer in Everest College students)]															
*** We must obtain/maintain VA approval per program on each campus (NOTE: there's a two-year waiting rule for certificate programs on new campuses, thus Madera [June 2014] and Delano [Sept 2015] have not yet been submitted)															

The Accreditation Department was called upon to assist in various regulatory challenges that affected particular programs. Notably, SJVC's Criminal Justice programs were adversely affected by the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) failure to timely approve the PC 832 courses taught through an outside vendor. This resulted in the Accreditation Department having to develop an alternative course approved by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) to enable CJ students to obtain firearms and powers to arrest certifications.

The following is a summary of 2015 achievements and milestones:

Institutional

- Substantive Change Application submitted to and approved by ACCJC-WASC to:
 - Continue the education of former Everest Students at Ontario campus as an alternative site of the Visalia RN program
 - Enroll new RN students at Ontario campus as an alternative site of the Visalia RN program
 - Correct the address of SJVC's Delano campus in ACCJC's records as a result of an error in the address provided by SJVC's Delano campus landlord
- Notice of Non-Substantive Change submitted to and acknowledged by ACCJC-WASC to:
 - Offer HVAC Certificate program at all sites
- Substantive Change Application submitted to and approved by BPPE to:
 - Offer Informational Technology program online
- New location application submitted to and approved by BPPE to:
 - Open Delano campus location

Programmatic Approvals

Commission on Dental Accreditation

- San Diego Dental Hygiene (full accreditation approval granted)

Kern County Public Health Department

- Emergency Services & Safety Management (EMT training approval)

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care

- Bakersfield Respiratory Therapy (re-accreditation approval)
- Ontario Respiratory Therapy (re-accreditation approval)
- Visalia Respiratory Therapy (re-accreditation approval)
- Visalia Respiratory Therapy (ASRT, Third Year approval)
- Bakersfield Respiratory Therapy (ASRT, Third Year approval)

Board of Registered Nursing

- Ontario Registered Nursing (Everest transfer students / Alternative site)
- Ontario Registered Nursing (alternate site generic student admission approval)

ACCREDITATION AND APPROVALS

Michael Abril, Vice President of Regulatory and Legal Affairs

Outcome Measures

The following is a summary of 2016 institutional and programmatic achievements and milestones:

Institutional

- Mid-Term Report submitted to ACCJC and accepted with no adverse findings
- Substantive Change Application submitted to and approved by ACCJC-WASC to:
 - Offer an Electrical Technology Associate Degree and Certificate program at the Ontario, Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield campuses
 - Offer a Veterinary Assisting Certificate of Completion program at the Fresno and Bakersfield campuses
 - Open a new SJVC branch campus in Porterville, CA
- Notice of Non-Substantive Change submitted to and acknowledged by ACCJC-WASC to:
 - Offer the Aviation Maintenance Technology program as a Certificate of Completion, with a degree completion option
 - Offer the Criminal Justice: Corrections program as a Certificate of Completion (all locations)
- Substantive Change Application submitted to and approved by BPPE to:
 - Offer the Veterinary Assisting program at the Bakersfield and Fresno campuses
 - Open a new branch campus in Porterville, CA
- Notice of Non-Substantive Change Application submitted to and approved by BPPE to:
 - Offer the Aviation Maintenance Certificate of Completion program
 - Offer the Dental Assisting Certificate of Completion program at the Hesperia campus
 - Offer the Criminal Justice: Corrections program as a Certificate of Completion (all locations)

SJVC submitted its Mid-Term Report to the ACCJC in March 2016. The report provided an update on the 34 improvement plans that arose as a result of the 2013 reaccreditation as well as the one recommendation received by the visiting team in the area of library and learning resources. The Mid-Term Report provided a detailed response to the recommendation and an overall description of how SJVC meets the accreditation standard governing this area. Several action items were identified in order to fully address the recommendation; those that remain are slated for completion in spring 2017.

At the bi-annual meeting in June 2016, the ACCJC acted to accept SJVC's Mid-Term Report and found the College to be in compliance with the Commission's standards, eligibility requirements, and policies.

Programmatic

- Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
 - Visalia Respiratory Therapy: 10-year Re-Accreditation approval, March 2016
 - Temecula Respiratory Therapy: ASRT, Third Year approval, March 2016
- Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities / American Veterinary Medical Association
 - Fresno Veterinary Technology: Continued Initial Accreditation with Reporting approval, April 2016
- Dental Board of California
 - Temecula Dental Assisting: Continued Accreditation Site Visit, April 2016
- Commission on Dental Accreditation

- Dental Hygiene (all locations): Report on Program Changes submitted regarding changes driven by new state Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) requirements, approval to proceed granted, June 2016
- Board of Registered Nursing
 - Ontario Registered Nursing: BRN Site Visit per Standalone Approval Application, June 2016
 - Permission granted to enroll a cohort size of 40 generic RN students with the May 2017 Ontario cohort start, December 2016
- Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement
 - Ontario Electrical Technology: Application for Approval submitted, July 2016
 - Ontario Electrical Technology: Approved School status granted, October 2016
- Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, CAAHEP
 - Fresno Surgical Technology: Re-Accreditation Site Visit, October 2016
- Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
 - Visalia Licensed Vocational Nursing: Re-Accreditation Application submitted, December 2016

As of the end of 2016, 48 of SJVC's 49 programmatic accreditations and approvals are in good standing. The single exception is the Visalia RN Bridge program being limited in the number of new enrollments (from 36 to 24 per cohort) based on an accreditor concern with graduate licensure exam pass rates. In a positive development, the Visalia RN Program Director was given permission by the BRN Nursing Education Consultant in October 2016 to enroll four (4) additional Bridge students per cohort, bringing the total to 28 for the new start. This change was made to allow for attrition, but also because NCLEX pass rates for the Bridge group have improved and are no longer an issue for the program. The College may decide to petition the BRN to bring the Bridge enrollment number back to 36 per cohort.

In addition, the Visalia campus RN Program Director also secured permission in 2016 from the BRN Supervising Nursing Education Consultant to increase the cohort size of the generic RN group, from 36 to 40. The Ontario campus now has Alternate Site generic RN student admission approval from the BRN (under Visalia's approval), having started two new generic RN cohorts during 2016, for a total of 72 new students, to complement those RN students who transferred from Everest College the previous year. The Ontario program is currently in the process of seeking separate standalone approval through the BRN, with the anticipated final decision coming later in 2017.

College efforts to obtain approval for SJVC's proposed Baccalaureate of Science Degree Completion Program in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) experienced two setbacks. First, the ACCJC sub-change committee requested additional clarification and the submission of supplemental materials. This request represents the second time that the ACCJC has deferred their decision on the BSRT program. Second, NACIQI prohibited ACCJC from accrediting additional baccalaureate-level programs pending ACCJC's demonstration that ACCJC is in full compliance with federal regulations. As of the time of this Year-in-Review report, SJVC's addendum to its BSRT program is scheduled for review at the February 24, 2017 ACCJC Substantive Change Committee meeting.

During 2016, three new approval bodies were added for College programs:

Approval Body	Program
Dental Hygiene Committee of California	Dental Hygiene
Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement	Electrical Technology
California Veterinary Medical Board	Veterinary Technology

Strategic Developments

Title IX Training

In 2016, two corporate directors completed Title IX investigatory training. One has completed training and maintains a full investigatory caseload. The other director will complete the internal training in early 2017 and will then begin to take on investigations.

With the exception of the Title IX Coordinator, who, as a general practice, does not handle investigations, the two directors are the only trained investigators for SJVC's 15 campuses and two business offices. In addition to Title IX matters, the investigators are also tasked with handling high-level, non-Title IX investigations as well. As such, one of the goals for 2017 is to identify additional SJVC personnel to serve in this capacity.

Criminal Justice: Corrections

A new CAO position, STC/BSIS Coordinator, was created at the end of December 2016 to be responsible for the quality, efficiency and successful day-to-day operation of the STC and BSIS state-approved program courses. This work was previously handled by an independent contractor. The position will also assist with the ongoing compliance auditing of these key program components.

Looking Ahead

Ontario RN Standalone Program Approval

Assisting the Ontario campus Registered Nursing program with preparing for their representation at the BRN Education Licensing Committee meeting and also for the follow-up Site Visit - both related to their standalone approval application

Institutional Self Study

With the completion of the Mid-Term Report, the Accreditation Team is gearing up for SJVC's 2019 reaccreditation. Committees have been assigned to evaluate the accreditation standards and training has been provided to those in a leadership position. This process is scheduled for completion by summer 2017 and the Self-Evaluation Report will be completed by summer 2018.

Senior Accreditation - WSCUC

San Joaquin Valley College intends to pursue eligibility status with regional accreditor WASC Senior Colleges and Universities Commission (WSCUC). Institutional accreditation through WSCUC will provide the College with program flexibility, including maintaining multiple baccalaureate level programs, as well as graduate level programs.