



Berkeley City College Answers Questions about the College’s Warning Status and What It Means for BCC and Our Students

On Monday, June 29, 2015, BCC received official notification from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The letter announced the result of the ACCJC External Evaluation Team visit to Berkeley City College March 9-12, 2015. Berkeley City College has been placed on Warning due to District deficiencies.

It is important to note that even though the college now is on Warning, it remains fully accredited.

1. Why did ACCJC place Berkeley City College on Warning status?

A June 29 letter from ACCJC to Berkeley City College states that, “Warning is being issued for the District deficiencies.” Warning is the first and least severe sanction of three levels which are: Warning, Probation and Show Cause.

2. Why did Peralta District deficiencies cause Berkeley City College to be placed on Warning?

Districts are not accredited. Therefore, Berkeley City College received a Warning because the External Evaluation Team cited District deficiencies that may affect the college.

3. What are the Team’s recommendations for the District?

The External Evaluation Team asked the District to address the following eight recommendations:

They are:

• District Recommendation 1:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District follow 2014 audit recommendations and develop an action plan to fund its Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities, including the associated debt service.

• District Recommendation 2:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District resolve comprehensively and in a timely manner the ongoing deficiencies identified in the 2013 and 2014 external audit findings.

Commission Concern 1: Regarding District Recommendations 1 and 2, the Commission carefully reviewed the team report and the District’s external audit and found that the District must provide the documented, long-term planning necessary for the continued financial stability of the District. This must include the attention to obligations coming due in the future such as the post employment health care benefits, the annual line of credit repayment, and the appropriate resolution to audit findings from 2013 and 2014 which impact the District both at the operating fund level and the entity wide financial statement level.

• District Recommendation 3:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that District General Services (DGS) work with college personnel to implement a plan to address total cost of ownership for new facilities and equipment, including undertaking critical deferred maintenance and preventive maintenance needs at the colleges in order to assure safe and sufficient physical resources for students, faculty and staff.

• District Recommendation 4:

In order to meet the Standards, the District should clearly identify the structures, roles, responsibilities and document the processes used to integrate human, facilities, technology planning, and fiscal planning in support of student learning and achievement and regularly evaluate the process in order to fairly allocate resources to support the planning priorities.

• District Recommendation 5:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District ensure retention of key leadership positions and that adequate staffing capacity is available to address the needs of the colleges in three critical areas reflected in the accreditation standards: institutional effectiveness and leadership, institutional research, and financial accountability and management.

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3. What are the Team's recommendations for the District?

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• District Recommendation 6:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District clearly delineate and communicate the operational responsibilities and functions of the District from those of the colleges and consistently adheres to this delineation in practice; and regularly assesses and evaluates District role delineation and governance and decision making structures and processes to assure their integrity and effectiveness in assisting the colleges in meeting educational goals.

• District Recommendation 7:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends the Governing Board adhere to its appropriate role. The Board must allow the chancellor to take full responsibility and authority for the areas assigned to District oversight.

• District Recommendation 8:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District systematically evaluate the equitable distribution of resources and the sufficiency and effectiveness of district-provided services in supporting effective operations of the colleges.

4. What are the Team's recommendations for the college?

The External Evaluation Team's two recommendations for Berkeley City College were:

• College Recommendation 1:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the college, through its governance and decision making structure, **develop and publish a process to review its mission and program review, institutional planning, student learning assessment, and resource allocation processes** on a regular basis and revise as necessary.

• College Recommendation 3:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the college **re-evaluate the established SLO assessment cycles to implement a process that includes more frequent assessment of all courses**. The team further recommends that **SLOs be included in all course syllabi** and match the official course outlines of record.

5. What are the college's next steps?

Berkeley City College will submit its follow-up report which addresses the eight district recommendations and two college recommendations by October 1, 2016. As always, Berkeley City College will continue to provide affordable quality education and will continue its strong commitment to classroom excellence and the highest quality student support services.

6. Does Berkeley City College remain fully accredited, even while on Warning?

Yes. BCC remains fully accredited, even while on Warning.

7. Does Warning status affect students' ability to enroll at the college or their ability to transfer?

No. Berkeley City College remains fully accredited and open for classes. All earned credits are recognized and transferable to accredited universities and colleges.

8. How does Berkeley City College's Warning status affect financial aid for students?

Financial aid is not affected. Student financial aid eligibility and other student resources at BCC continue unchanged.

9. What actions will Berkeley City College take to remove the Warning sanction?

BCC recognizes that the ACCJC has identified important concerns and will take immediate action to resolve them. The college is committed to working with our campus and District constituents to address each recommendation. Both BCC and the Peralta Community College District will develop comprehensive plans to meet the time frame the Commission has given us.

10. Where can I find more information and updates about Berkeley City College's accreditation?

The letter from ACCJC with External Evaluation Team recommendations for BCC and the Peralta Community College District can be found at <http://www.berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/accreditation/accreditation-status/>

