

ACCJC Press Release: Commission's Decision on Remand Review

11:00 a.m. July 21, 2014. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC), 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949; 415-506-0234; accjc@accjc.org.

The Decision

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC or the Commission) has completed its evaluation of the compliance of City College of San Francisco (CCSF or the college) with Accreditation Standards as of May 21, 2014, pursuant to an order by an independent appellate panel. Based on its review of the testimony and documentary evidence provided by CCSF describing its progress toward meeting standards, the Commission found that CCSF did not establish its compliance with Accreditation Standards as of May 21, 2014. Thus, reconsideration of the Commission's June 2013 decision to terminate the accreditation of CCSF was not warranted. Today's [decision](#) completes the appeal process available under ACCJC policies and federal regulations when there is a termination of accreditation.

Background

In June 2013, the ACCJC acted to terminate CCSF's accreditation after the institution was warned of possible termination of accreditation in June 2012 and failed to make sufficient changes to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies. Commission policies provide for the availability of three administrative processes before a termination decision is final. The first is a review by the Commission of its action, and the second is an appeal. CCSF asked the Commission to undertake a formal review of its action, and that [review was completed](#) in January 2014 and did not reverse the Commission's June 2013 termination of CCSF's accreditation. CCSF then appealed the termination action. On June 12, 2014, an independent Appellate Hearing Panel issued its [decision](#) finding that none of the grounds for overturning ACCJC's termination action were met by the institution's appeal. However, the [Panel directed](#) that the Commission conduct an evaluation of CCSF's state of compliance with Accreditation Standards and Eligibility Requirements as of May 21, 2014, using testimony and documentary evidence provided by CCSF.

The outcome of the appeals process noticed today does not necessarily have the effect of withdrawing accreditation from CCSF. The review and the appeal were, respectively, the first two administrative processes afforded to CCSF to demonstrate that its accreditation should not be removed. CCSF has not been successful at either one. The college may now move to the third administrative process, recently adopted by ACCJC, by applying for [restoration status](#). If, based on CCSF's application and a subsequent evaluation, the Commission awards restoration status, CCSF would have an additional two-year period to come into compliance with standards while retaining its accreditation. If the college's forward movement demonstrated thus far continues, and is substantiated by the end of the restoration process to demonstrate CCSF's compliance with standards, then the college could regain reaffirmation of accredited status.

Next Steps for CCSF

It is CCSF's decision alone to apply for restoration status. If the college decides to apply, it will need to submit a letter of application along with an acceptable and complete Eligibility Report for review by July 31, 2014. Assuming the application is accepted, the college would then need to prepare a self-evaluation report, and undergo an ACCJC team evaluation visit within four months of the application. Following the team visit, the Commission would review the team report and self evaluation report and decide whether to grant restoration status. This decision could take place at the January 2015 Commission meeting. From the time of the application for restoration status to completion of the evaluation and issuance of the Commission's decision on restoration status, the termination of accreditation would be suspended, and the college would remain accredited. If restoration status is granted, CCSF would be "accredited, in restoration status" for a period of two years, and would undergo its next evaluation to demonstrate compliance with standards and eligibility requirements in fall 2016, with a Commission decision in January 2017 on whether the college has achieved compliance.

Additional information can be found on the ACCJC website at www.accjc.org