



Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

August 14, 2024

In support of the ACCJC 2030 Strategic Plan, ACCJC launched a Strategic Initiative to enhance quality instruction and improve equitable student outcomes in the Distance Education modality.

In June 2024, in response to ACCJC’s initial Call to Action, over 50 members from institutions across the region volunteered their time and expertise in support of the Distance Education Strategic Initiative. In July, the group engaged in discussions to craft a pilot distance education rubric and additional resources to assist institutions in improving quality programming in distance education and to provide peer review teams with guidance for the required validation of regular and substantive interaction per ACCJC’s Policy on Distance and Correspondence Education.

ACCJC now seeks feedback from all interested parties on the following pilot resources:

Resource	Purpose
Pilot Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education	Rubric to support institutions in the continuous improvement process to increase the depth and quality of Substantive and Regular Interaction in Distance Education and promote the achievement of equitable student success; also provides framework for peer reviewers to provide constructive feedback to the institution on areas where the college could improve, or to validate highly developed practices, in the Peer Review Team Report in the context of Accreditation Standard 2.6 .
Pilot Addendum to the Protocol for Distance Education Review	Guidance document to assist peer reviewers in conducting their assessment of the quality of distance education that the institution delivers in accordance with ACCJC’s Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education and the Protocol for Distance Education Review outlined in Appendix B in the Accreditation Handbook and to verify substantive and regular interaction. Used to report the results of the peer review team findings.
Pilot DE Assessment Tool for Peer Reviewers	Excel spreadsheet for peer reviewers to document whether an institution meets the 85% threshold for substantive and regular interaction in the sample of course sections the team reviews.

ACCJC Staff, in collaboration with the volunteers from the field, and Commissioners, will consider the feedback as ACCJC pilots the rubric and resources in fall 2024 for colleges undergoing Team ISER Review and for institutions that had a core inquiry on distance education as part of ACCJC's upcoming Focused Site Visits.

Please take a moment to complete the open-ended survey linked below and/or register to attend a listening session to provide your feedback. **The survey will remain open until November 15, 2024.**

Survey Link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7969398/Pilot-Distance-Education-Resources-and-Rubric-Feedback>

DE Resources and Rubric Listening Session 1

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. PDT

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudOqqrDIqHtFkfRoMn1qcAzf1MuGfQOeh>

DE Resources and Rubric Listening Session 2

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfu2orzopHNOb6DofjBLrA2Rlf38Z-wXj>

Thank you in advance for your contributions to ACCJC and the peer review process.

Kind regards,
ACCJC Staff

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