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ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

February 24, 2025

Dear ACCJC Member Institution ALOs, CEOs, Chancellors, Board of Trustee Presidents, and other interested parties,

On February 14, 2025, the United States Department of Education (ED) issued a [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) addressing the obligations of institutions that receive federal financial assistance from ED, and sharing the Department's interpretation of federal law related to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in [Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College](#). Institutions, state departments of education, state higher education systems, and other agencies are encouraged to provide feedback regarding the guidance. Comments can be submitted by emailing comments to OCR@ed.gov or writing to the following:

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC), of which the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is a member, has written a joint letter to provide feedback on ED's "Dear Colleague Letter." The letter makes clear our belief that the Department's interpretation of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (SFFA) is overly broad and expansive, a concern shared among legal experts. Moreover, if the Department is to move forward with this broad interpretation, the 14-day timeline for compliance would be impossible for our member institutions to meet. A copy of that letter is available at: <https://accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-02-24-C-RAC-Feedback-on-February-14-2025-DCL.pdf>.

As stated in our previous correspondence (February 19, 2025), ACCJC is monitoring this situation carefully. All constituents should review the letter, consider providing written comments to the Department as noted above, and expect future guidance that will be issued as more information becomes available from ED and as necessary. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Accrediting Commission for
Community and Junior Colleges

accjc.org

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