



Exploring a Legacy of Excellence and Charting Our Future

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Important Dates—Spring 2021

ISER Standards Draft Review by Writing Teams and AWTL
February—March 2021
ISER Standards Draft Review by Planning Councils and AWLT
March—April 2021
Draft Quality Focus Essay
March 2021
Quality Focus Essay Review by Planning Councils
April 2021
Full ISER review by External Reviewer
May—June 2021

ISER Timeline

Fall 2019

- Accreditation Training to Councils and Writing Teams
- Draft ISER 2022 Outline

Spring 2020

- ACCJC ISER training for campus personnel: 2/6/20
- ACCJC ISER training to Governing Board: 2/19/20
- First draft of ISER 2022 and collection of ideas for Quality Focused Essay (QFE)

Fall 2020

- Second draft of ISER 2022
- ACCJC Advanced ISER Training: 12/4/20

Spring 2021

- Finalize ISER 2022 and QFE
- External reader review

Fall 2021

- Review and endorsement of ISER 2022 (SPC and Governing Board)

Spring 2022

- ISER 2022 due to ACCJC: March 2022
- Peer review site visit: TBD

The Final Stretch!

The much-anticipated completion of the Institutional Self Evaluation (ISER) is on the horizon. Writing teams have put countless hours into crafting our narrative and in just one year we will showcase our accomplishments and share with ACCJC our plans to further develop our practices.

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) is now bringing together various drafts and creating a single cohesive and concise document. During February and March, as the AWLT completes this task, we will meet with each of the 10 writing teams to ensure that the draft continues to accurately reflect the evidence and evaluation they have provided. The AWLT is excited to meet with each of the teams to congratulate them on their wonderful work!

Following review by the accreditation writing teams, the AWLT will provide an update and review of the standards to the planning councils in March and April. Planning Councils have the opportunity to provide insight that will be helpful in strengthening the drafts. This truly is an opportunity to remind us all of what wonderful work has been done in the past seven years and what great accomplishments are still to come!

Accreditation in Action

If you have been paying attention to “Jack’s Daily Updates,” you are well aware of the phenomenal achievements in all areas of the College. We have done and continue to do so much to make Palomar a better college. To highlight, we have

- Continued to address each of our Big 8 Recommendations for FCMAT;
- Developed an anti-racist framework that seeks to foster an inclusive environment and improve equitable access and outcomes for our students;
- Revised our entire governance structure;
- Launched the Palomar Pathways Mapper, which allows students to view courses in their program from start to finish;
- Conducted a massive student success calling initiative to assist students with enrollment and resources;
- Improved our program review processes in all divisions.

This list goes on and on!

Did we do all of this for accreditation? No, we did it for our students. They deserve the best we have to offer. We proudly evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. And guess what?! All that we have done also helps us to meet accreditation standards. This is what accreditation is about. It’s not about reading a list of requirements and checking the boxes. It’s about serving our students and doing it well, in all areas, OUR WAY. And when we get it right, our students win, our community wins, and we continue to grow for another seven years with a certificate of reaffirmation of accreditation.

Quality Focus Essay

In the [October 2020 issue of the Accreditation Update](#), you learned a little bit about the Quality Focus Essay (QFE). Out of our self-evaluation, our writing teams were tasked with thinking about areas where Palomar can improve its practices specifically related to student success and achievement. What are some things we can do, backed up by data, to show we are moving the needle? Now that writing teams have finished their assessments, the Accreditation Steering Committee will review possible topics for our QFE. We don’t have to reinvent the wheel. In fact, Palomar is already working on a number of plans focused on completion and retention that will absolutely benefit our students and that we can highlight in our QFE. Stay tuned for more on these ambitious and fruitful plans in the next issue of the Accreditation Update!

Solve and Win!

Each volume of the Accreditation Update will introduce to you, through a fun activity, a component of the Institutional Self Evaluation. Complete the activity and submit it to the Accreditation Office to be entered to win a prize. For every activity completed, you will be entered into a grand prize drawing as the end of the writing project. The more activities completed, the greater opportunity for you to win the grand prize!

This volume of the Accreditation Update activity is to complete the word search that includes terms and phrases associated with what Palomar is doing to meet accreditation standards. Submit your short response to Marti Snyder via email at accreditation@palomar.edu.

Good luck!

