



NACEP ACCREDITATION: ONE ACCREDITATION CYCLE IN REVIEW



What accreditation standards mean for concurrent enrollment

THE STANDARDS HAVE PROVIDED MANY GENERAL BENEFITS FOR JCCC

- ✓ **Alignment with national standards**
- ✓ **External input and review of our program**
- ✓ **Improved tracking of all aspects of program**
- ✓ **Additional research (impact study was new for us)**
- ✓ **Assistance with transferability of credits**
- ✓ **More “muscle” when dealing with policy change implementation w/secondary partners**
- ✓ **Collegial interaction for support and problem solving**
- ✓ **Near 100 percent instructor compliance with College Now policies (also thanks to a small stipend implemented along with accreditation).**



HOW STANDARDS SPECIFICALLY HELPED BENEFIT OUR CEP PROGRAM

- Professional development revamped
- Communication with instructors/high schools enhanced
- High school discipline-specific liaisons added
- Strengthened relationship with HS counselors
- Improved site visit form/syllabus checklist
- Reaching a broader group of students
- Program-wide emphasis on The Authentic Classroom



DESIGNATED HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Each partner high school designates a “Building Representative” (typically a counselor).
- This relationship is cultivated carefully and deliberately.
- The Building Representatives help JCCC get the message out about NACEP and help bring the instructors on board with the importance of accreditation.
- They are our “choir” for the program within each high school.
- We find they like bacon.



MORE FORMS!!!

Not everyone's idea of a good time, however...

- New syllabus checklist
- New site visit form
- Site visit tracking
 - The forms present questions that are guided by NACEP standards.
 - We stole these ideas from others at NACEP conferences.

**Faculty liaisons appreciate the new structure
and clarity of the forms!**



REACHING MORE STUDENTS

- Historically our program only reached the honors/AP students due to the nature of our curriculum.
- In the last 5-8 years JCCC has expanded our reach by adding sections of horticulture, computer, and metal fabrication.
- Several years ago we began offering a soft skills one-credit hour class in a local alternative high school and now have expanded into a second alternative high school.
- NACEP encourages increasing access to higher education and promotes research on the CEP and underrepresented students.



THE AUTHENTIC CLASSROOM

- Door signs for College Now outside each CEP classroom
- Wording suggestions for syllabi:

“Course Engagement: Learning at the college-level requires that students explore new issues, and previously explored issues in new ways, in order to engage in the critical thinking that is so necessary for college-level work. . . Students need to come to class with a willingness to learn of a variety of points of view in order to develop their own informed thinking.”

- Use the term “office hours” instead of “planning period”
- Stressing the importance of saying “at your next campus” rather than “when you get to college”



MORE ON THE AUTHENTIC CLASSROOM

- Using the research from Melinda Karp (CCRC) CEP instructors are asked to stress these important aspects of college-culture:
 - **Academic habits:** Expected to manage workflow independently, without prompts and reminders.
 - **Cultural know-how:** how to interact with faculty, more uncomfortable classroom discourse, exposure to new ideas.
 - **Balance multiple roles and time demands:** more college students are balancing work demands with school.
 - **New forms of help-seeking:** Self-directed help-seeking and way-finding will be the new expectation They needed to learn how to ask for help before they are too late...



BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

As a professional association

- **Conferences**
 - **Program management support**
 - **Professional connection and commiseration**
- **Research**
- **Leadership opportunities**
- **Growing state-chapter affiliates**
- **Support in dealing with CEP critics**



BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

For modeling the standards

- Provides a place to start when making decisions about your program
- Many states are incorporating portions of the NACEP standards into policy
- For new programs it provides guiding best-practices
- For older programs it provides an external lever to motivate needed changes



BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

For accreditation

- Serves as a guarantee to students, policy-makers, and other postsecondary institutions that the accredited partnership meets rigorous national standards
- Distinguishes a concurrent enrollment partnership, thereby enhancing its ability to recruit new partners and students
- Aids students and families when they seek credit recognition for their college credits earned through concurrent enrollment
- Allows programs to display the NACEP logo on their websites and in other publications



CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ The accreditation process is time-consuming
- ✓ You will need buy-in from institutional research office and supervisors
- ✓ It will create stress on faculty liaisons
- ✓ Core changes in procedure can create challenges with high school partners
- ✓ NACEP guidelines do not align completely with some state policy
- ✓ You can't do anything else important in your life during this process, so remodel your kitchen now!



BEST ADVICE FOR THE PROCESS

- Create a good accreditation application team
- Think of the application from the reviewers perspective
- Bring some critics into the process (they will be converted)
- Know this will make your program better
- Start with the easy standards first
- Celebrate your milestones

