

# Hot Topics in Accreditation



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# Topics and Questions that will be addressed in this Breakout Session:

- Concerns about distance education
- Substantive change
- Institutionally set standards for the annual report
- Sanctions and colleges facing those issues
- Revised standards for 2014
- Others?

# Concerns about Distance Education

- ▶ Federal and National Concerns Expressed by ACCJC
  - A few cases of significant institutional growth and transformation triggered Congressional concerns with exploitation of institutions, students
  - Growing amount of federal student aid funds, proportion going to private institutions and for profit institutions offering DE
  - Financial aid fraud for which Distance Education may be particularly suited
  - Growing number of degree mills that operate as “distance only” institutions leading to problems for transfer institutions, employers

# How does the ACCJC Evaluate Institutions regarding Distance and Correspondence Education?

The “Guide to Evaluating Distance Education and Correspondence Education” published by the ACCJC explains this:

[http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Guide-to-Evaluating-DE-and-CE\\_2012.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Guide-to-Evaluating-DE-and-CE_2012.pdf)

# Student Authentication



# Academic Integrity & Authentication

HEOA requires accreditors to require institutions “to have processes through which the ***institution*** establishes that the student who registers in a distance education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the program and receives the academic credit.”

Means by which to achieve this include:

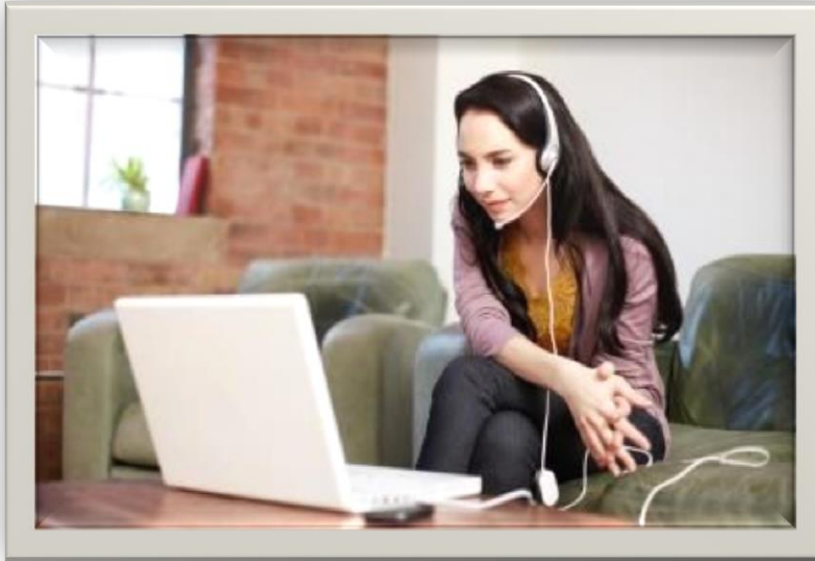
- 1) College LMS
- 2) Proctored assessment
- 3) LMS log-in statement

Through the entry of my username and password I affirm that I am the student who enrolled in this course. Furthermore, I affirm that I understand and agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity and the use of student data as described in the Student Conduct Code that governs student rights and responsibilities. Failure to abide by the regulations may result in disciplinary action up to expulsion from the college.

- 4) Academic integrity in DE training
- 5) Plagiarism detection software



# DE or CE?



Regular Substantive  
(Effective) Instructor  
to Student Contact



# Two Sets of Guidelines

## The State's Definition:

- “Distance education means instruction in which the instructor and student are separated by distance and interact through the assistance of communication technology.”
- Same course-quality standards
- Regular, effective contact
- Separate curricular review

## The ACCJC Definition:

- “. . .a formal interaction which uses one or more technologies to deliver instruction to student who are separated from the instructor and which supports regular and substantive interaction between the students and instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously.”
- Technologies include internet, interactive TV, TV, audio conferencing, video conferencing, DVDs, CD-ROMs, etc.



# Substantive Change

The ACCJC's "Substantive Change Manual"  
can found at:

[http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Substantive-Change-Manual\\_August-2012.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Substantive-Change-Manual_August-2012.pdf)

# Process and Structure

## Substantive Change Manual, Section 4

- **4.1: Eligibility**
- **4.2: List of Sequential Steps**  
*NB: Step 4 outlines sections & content to include*
- **4.3: Committee Review Process & Potential Outcomes**

# Structuring the Proposal

- A. Concise description of the proposed change
- B. Description of the program (or change in delivery mode) to be offered
- C. Description of the planning process leading to the change
- D. Evidence of analysis and planning of adequate resources
- E. Evidence that required approvals have been met
- F. Evidence that Eligibility Requirements will be fulfilled
- G. Evidence that Accreditation Standards will be fulfilled

# Institutionally Set Standards for Student Achievement in the Annual Report

- ALOs and presidents were contacted regarding these in the fall
- Many faculty were unaware until the February letter that these were being required in the annual reports
- How are these standards being set?
- What about within districts?

# The latest round of sanctions

- The good: both Cuesta College and College of the Redwoods came off show cause and are working to being off sanctions altogether
- The bad: College of the Sequoias was put on show cause
- The ugly: ...

# Questions and Concerns