WASC Accreditation

International

Serving approx. 5,200 schools worldwide

20 Partner Affiliations

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Santa Clara Adult Education is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

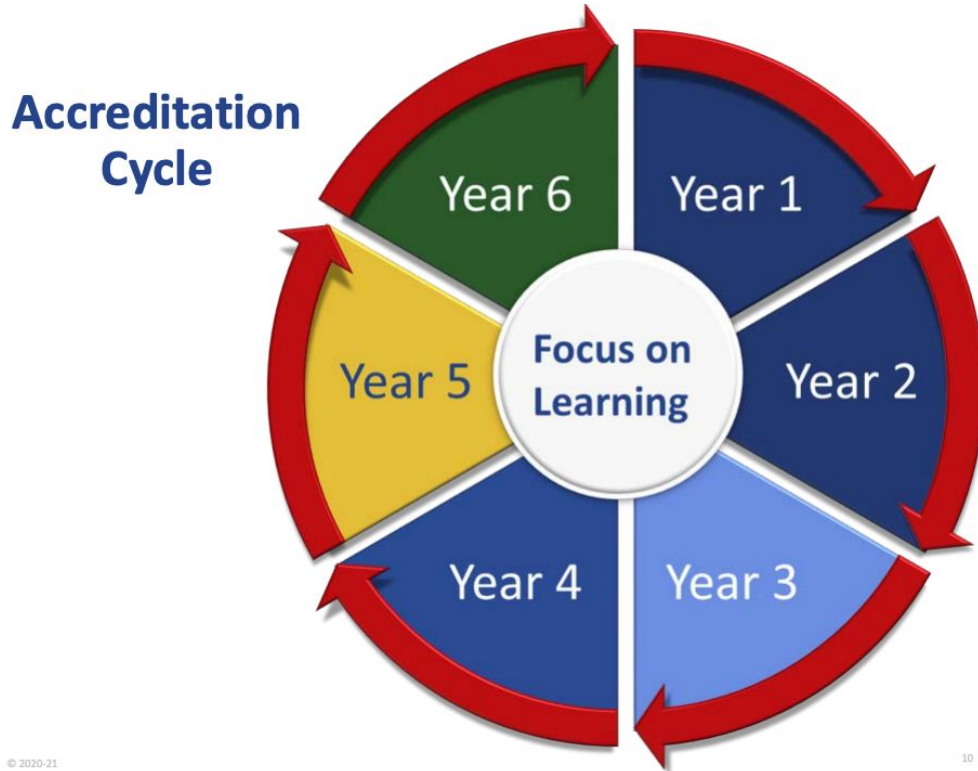WASC is the standard accreditation body for adult schools in California.

WASC Mission

Through ACS WASC's evaluation of institutions, ACS WASC accreditation *assures* the educational community, the general public, and other organizations and agencies that an institution has clearly defined objectives appropriate to education, has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected; appears in fact to be accomplishing them substantially; is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to do so; and demonstrates that it meets ACS WASC's criteria and accreditation standards.

WASC encourages and supports institutional development and improvement through an **institutional self-evaluation using the accreditation criteria and policies, as well as mid-cycle, follow-up, and special reports, and period evaluation of institutional quality by qualified peer professionals.**

Accreditation Cycle of Quality

Accreditation Cycle

SCAE is currently in Year 5 of a 6 year cycle.

Visit will take place in Spring, 2021.

What is Accreditation?

IS

Self-reflection

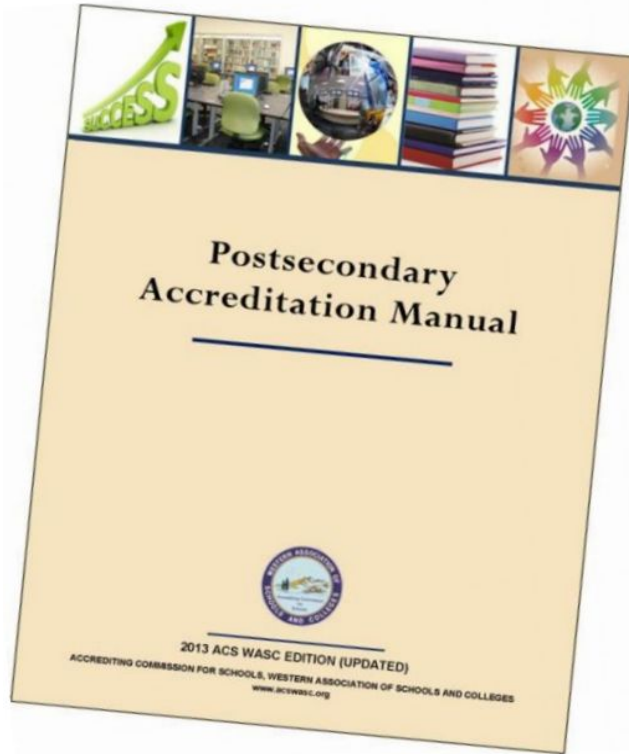Self-evaluation

Student focused

Schoolwide
collaboration

IS NOT

Inspection

A Report

Teacher focused

Individual or Small
Group Work only

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Postsecondary Accreditation Manual

2013 ACS WASC EDITION (UPDATED)
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS, WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
www.acswasc.org

The WASC Continuous Improvement Process is guided by the Postsecondary Accreditation Manual.

The manual provides guidance on preparing written responses to the self-study criteria. The process is designed to include input from stakeholders. The written responses will form the core of the school's self-study report and lead to the development of action plans that will guide the school for the next 3-6 years.

The self-study report and action plans will be sent to the Visiting Team before the visit.

The visit will take place in Spring, 2021.

Example of the self-study criteria

Criteria Structure: Respond to the Indicators

Discussion Questions are helpers

Criterion 4: Curriculum

The school demonstrates its support of student learning through the development of a challenging, coherent, and relevant curriculum that allows all students the opportunity to reach Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs). The school's curriculum reflects its mission and SLOs and connects directly to current student learning needs. The school pursues current, research-based curriculum development information to keep its programs relevant and effective.

Indicator 4.1: The school has a documented curricular map that outlines courses of study necessary to reach stated outcomes, licensure requirements, or certificate expectations.

Discussion Questions:

- How does the school list all courses and provide course outlines for all stakeholder groups?
- To what extent does each course have clearly defined learner outcomes?
- How is institutional resource allocation connected to curriculum development needs?

Use of focus groups

In order to address the criteria and indicators, the process uses a focus group model. Focus groups interdisciplinary groups of teachers, classified staff, district leaders and others who work together to prepare responses for the report.
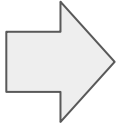
Focus Groups

Staff members organized around specific criteria: Curriculum, Instructional Program, Use of Assessment, and Student Services
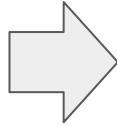
WASC Process

Action Plans prepared to guide work for the next 3-6 years.

Visiting team of adult education professionals visit school to confirm report and endorse action plans.

Visit to take place in Spring, 2021

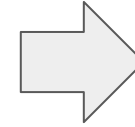Responses to indicators are used to prepare self-study report.

Action plans are prepared in response to issues identified through the self-study process.

Self-study report and action plans sent to visiting team, January, 2021.

Responses to indicators are gathered through focus groups, student and staff surveys, observations, staff meetings, student groups, email, etc.

Questions? Please contact your program supervisor.