ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Relations with Government Agencies
First Reading June 2011)

The Commission has sought recognition and periodically seeks renewal of recognition by the
U.S. Secretary of Education, in order that member institutions achieve and maintain eligibility
to participate in programs such as Title IV student financial aid of the Higher Education Act
(HEA). The Commission and its member institutions take direction from the Commission
Policy on Institutional Compliance with Title IV. The Commission provides, upon request
from the U.S. Secretary of Education, any information sought regarding institutional
compliance with HEA Title IV regulations of the HEA.

The Commission notifies the U.S. Department of Education and appropriate state licensing or
authorizing agencies and accrediting bodies of all institutional actions, within 30 days of the
Commission’s decision. If the Commission’s final decision is to deny, withdraw, suspend, or
terminate the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution or to put an institution on
probation or show cause, the Commission will notify the U.S. Secretary of Education,
appropriate state licensing or authorizing agencies and accrediting bodies and the public of
that decision within 24 hours of notice to the institution.

No later than 60 days after a decision to place an institution on probation or show cause or
take adverse action on an institution, the Commission will make available to the U.S.
Secretary of Education, the appropriate licensing or authorizing agency, and the public upon
request, a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the Commission’s decision, and the
comments, if any, that the affected institution may wish to make with regard to that
decision.

The Commission notifies the U.S. Secretary of Education if an accredited or preaccredited
institution decides to withdraw voluntarily from accreditation or preaccreditation or if the
institution lets its accreditation or preaccreditation lapse. The Commission will notify the
U.S. Secretary of Education within 30 days of receiving notification from the institution that
it is withdrawing voluntarily or of the date on which accreditation or preaccreditation
lapses.

Copies of publications, such as the Commission Newsletter are routinely sent to the state and
federal agencies with which the Commission communicates. The WASC ACCJC Directory of
Accredited Institutions, which is continuously updated annually, is available on the ACCJC
Commission website (www.accjc.org).

The Commission maintains regular communication with the U.S. Department of Education and
relevant state agencies. It responds to inquiries from government agencies and forwards
responses to complaints against institutions that have been routed to the Commission by those
agencies.

In the event clear evidence of Title IV fraud and abuse is obtained by the Commission, that
information is forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions are notified and
asked to respond if complaints or allegations of fraud and abuse are communicated to the
Commission by the Department of Education.
The Commission submits to the *U.S. Secretary of Education* any proposed changes in policy and procedures, or Accreditation Standards that might alter its scope of recognition or its compliance with appropriate federal regulation [§602.27(d)].

The Commission will not, except where exceptional circumstances exist, renew the accreditation or preaccreditation of any institution that is subject to adverse action by any other recognized institutional accrediting agency or state agency.