



**What is accreditation?**

Accreditation is system of self-regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) accreditation process provides assurance to the public that the accredited member colleges meet the Standards; the education earned at the institutions is of value to the student who earned it; and employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credential as legitimate.

**Who is Honolulu CC accredited by?**

Honolulu Community College (Honolulu CC) is accredited by the ACCJC for the Western region of the U.S. ACCJC operates under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The ACCJC is one of seven regional accrediting commissions. The ACCJC is authorized to operate by the U.S. Department of Education through the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

**What is the status of Honolulu CC's accreditation?**

The Commission issued a warning to Honolulu Community College, following our six-year review period. While we're on warning, Honolulu Community College remains fully accredited but must address certain deficiencies before accreditation can be fully reaffirmed. The areas of deficiency at Honolulu Community College include insufficient progress in defining student learning outcomes and related assessments for courses and programs and in developing a systematic assessment of the distance education program of the College. The College is also required to review the general education requirements for the A.A.S. degrees.

**What is the timeline for correcting the recommendations?**

The College is required to complete a follow up report addressing the issues in October 2013. A follow up visit by the Commission will occur after that report is submitted. The College is confident these deficiencies can be corrected before October 2013, as required by the Commission. A plan of action is now in place to correct these deficiencies.

**How does this affect the student?**

The College remains fully accredited during this period. Students are not affected by this action while we are busily correcting the areas where we need to improve. The College fully expects to correct the deficiencies within the time dictated by the ACCJC. Information from students will be requested via surveys and evaluations. The College appreciates your assistance by providing us information about your experience here so that we can make it an even more effective place for learning.

**How serious is "being placed on warning status" - what does it mean?**

It's certainly not good news, especially if the College fails to address the concerns of the Commission. But we will address them. The College leadership understands the concerns and will implement the recommendations. "Warning" is the mildest form of



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## Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions

sanction for a college to receive. (In ascending order of severity they are: warning, probation, show cause and termination.)

### **Does this happen often?**

It is not uncommon that colleges are placed on warning when the commission finds particular standards are not met. A copy of the recent actions taken by the Commission is available at this link:

<http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ACCJC-Memo-to-Field-and-January-2013-Commission-Actions-on-Institutions.pdf>

### **How major are the corrections the accreditors are asking the College to fix?**

The recommendations are based upon how we assess student learning and evaluate our programs and departments. This does not take additional resources to address. This is truly about the way the College does business in making sure students are learning.