



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Barbara A. Beno, President
Steven M. Kinsella, Chair

February 5, 2016

Dr. Rosevonne Pato
Acting President
American Samoa Community College
P.O. Box 2609
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear President Pato:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 6-8, 2016, reviewed the Show Cause Report submitted by American Samoa Community College, evidentiary materials also submitted, and the Report prepared by the External Evaluation Team that visited on November 2-6, 2015. College leadership, including the governing board and the college president, certified the Show Cause Report. The College Show Cause Report, and the report of the evaluation team, documented the institution's current level of compliance with Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

After considering all of the written materials noted above, the Commission acted to **remove Show Cause and issue Warning** and to require a Follow-Up Report in twelve months.¹ Warning indicates that an institution does not meet one or more standards, and the Commission found that the College does not meet Standards I.A.2, I.B.3, and I.B.6. American Samoa Community College is required to submit its Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2016**. The Report should demonstrate that the College has resolved the remaining deficiencies and meets Standards I.A.2, I.B.3, and I.B.6.

The Commission also finds that American Samoa Community College (ASCC) has addressed deficiencies and now meets the following Standards that were cited in the February 6, 2015 Commission action letter: 2014 Eligibility Requirements 7, 11, 14, and 18; and 2014 Accreditation Standards I.B.1, I.B.2, I.B.4, I.B.5, I.B.7, I.B.8, I.B.9, II.A.2, II.A.10, II.B.3, II.e.2, II.C.3, III.A.6, III.A.12, III.D.9, III.D.11, IV.A.1, IV.A.2, IV.A.3, IV.B.2, IV.B.3, IV.e.8, IV.C.10, and IV.C.11. The Commission wishes to acknowledge the large amount of work ASCC has done to comply with Standards, and to encourage the institution to complete the work to meet the remaining Standards noted above.

The Show Cause Evaluation Team Report provides details of the team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards. I advise you to read the Report carefully to understand the team's findings and conclusions.

Dr. Rosevonne Pato
American Samoa Community College
February 5, 2016

Additional Information:

Under U.S. Department of Education enforcement regulations, the Commission is required to take immediate action to terminate the accreditation of an institution which is out of compliance with any standards, or, alternatively, may provide an institution with additional notice and a deadline for coming into compliance that is no later than two years from when the institution was first informed of the non-compliance. With this letter, American Samoa Community College is being provided with notice of the Standards for which it remains out of compliance, and is being provided time to meet the Standards.

American Samoa Community College was placed on Show Cause in January 2015, following its comprehensive review in fall 2014. Following the Commission's review of the October 2015 Show Cause Report and Show Cause Evaluation Team Report, the Commission finds that the College has resolved most of the deficiencies in meeting standards and only remains out of compliance with the three Standards noted above. American Samoa Community College must resolve the remaining deficiencies and meet the three remaining Standards by **October 2016**. This deadline falls within the two-year period permitted by federal regulations.

The findings and guidance provided in the Show Cause Team Report represent the best advice of the peer evaluation team at the time of the visit, but may not describe all that is necessary for the College to come into compliance. While an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the Report, American Samoa Community College is expected to use the Report to improve educational programs and services. In addition, the College has the responsibility to accept the Commission's action, and to uphold the integrity of the accreditation process by accurately portraying it and helping institutional constituencies to understand the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies pertinent to this Commission action.

I have previously sent you a copy of the Show Cause Evaluation Team Report. The Commission requires that you give the Show Cause Report, the Show Cause Evaluation Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your Show Cause Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Higher Education. The Commission also requires that these documents be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website.

Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

Dr. Rosevonne Pato
American Samoa Community College
February 5, 2016

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the work that American Samoa Community College undertook to prepare for the Show Cause visit, and to support the work of the external evaluation team. The Commission encourages the College's continued work to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Accreditation and peer review are most effective when the College and the ACCJC work together to encourage continuous quality improvement in higher education. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We'd be glad to help you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

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¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, or Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission* which can be found on the ACCJC website at: <http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>.