

How to File a Third Party Comment With U.S. Department of Education (DoE)

Would you like to comment on how the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is performing as the accreditor of California's Community Colleges?

ACCJC has applied for re-recognition by and for those who feel that ACCJC is not a reliable accreditor NOW is the time to make your voices heard by filing comments with the DoE. The deadline for filing is September 6 !!

What can the Third Party Comment discuss?

The Third Party Comment can only be in relation to the ACCJC's compliance with the CFR Regulations and must relate to the Secretary's Criteria for the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. See <http://tinyurl.com/AccredCriteria>

A Comment can refer to the ACCJC's actions toward institutions, but should not focus on only ONE institution. Information about ACCJC's reliability, acceptability, integrity, fairness, the relevance of its criteria and Standards, and just about anything else concerning its operations are appropriate topics for comments. But, it is best to tie comments to specific regulations. For instance:

- ACCJC is supposed to have clear and effective controls against conflicts of interest in the accreditation process - 34 CFR § 602.15(a)(6)
- ACCJC is required to avoid the inconsistent application of its Standards - 34 CFR § 602.18(b).
- ACCJC is required to "clearly identify" any deficiencies in its reports - 34 CFR § 602.18.
- ACCJC is required to assure that the constituencies represented at a college are adequately represented on college evaluation teams - 34 CFR § 602.21(b)(4).

What's the format for the Comment? Where and how is it submitted?

There is a particular format for the Third Party Comment, which the USDE "prefers." A model can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/SampleAccredComment>

For filing guidelines see <http://tinyurl.com/AccredGuidelines>. The Guidelines offer the ELEMENTS or criteria, but are NOT inclusive of everything that may be relevant to a particular regulation. Things may be relevant even if they are not noted in the Guidelines.

Submit Third Party Comments by e-mail to AccreditationCommittees@ed.gov. In the subject line, please write "Written Comments re: Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges."

The e-mail itself MUST include the name, title, affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers and website (if any) of the person and/or group that is making the comment. Comments should be submitted as a MS WORD document or compatible format attached to the e-mail OR provided in the body of an email. Please do not submit a Pdf file.

FILE BY SEPTEMBER 6th