**City College of San Francisco Accreditation**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**July 11, 2012**

**Q: What is accreditation?**

A: The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) accredits associate degree granting institutions in the Western region of the U.S. ACCJC operates under the corporate entity 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.

Accreditation is a voluntary system of self-regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness (The Commission’s complete Purpose Statement is available in Article I, section 2 of its Bylaws). The 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.

**Q: Is City College of San Francisco currently accredited?**

A: Yes. CCSF is a fully accredited community college. Credits earned by students are transferable to other accredited institutions.

**Q: What is CCSF's current accreditation status?**

A: CCSF was placed on "Show Cause" status on July 1, 2012.

**Q: What is "Show Cause" status?**

A: When the accrediting commission finds an institution to be in substantial non-compliance with its eligibility requirements, standards or policies, or when it has not responded to the imposed conditions, ACCJC may require an institution to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn at the end of a specified period. During this time, an institution is subject to reports and extra visits to be determined by the commission. **During this Show Cause period, the institution remains accredited and we are doing everything we can to keep it that way.**

**Q: What are some of the issues at CCSF according to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)?**


**Q: Will the college's status affect my financial aid?**

A: No. CCSF's accredited status continues and students' financial aid will not be affected.
Q: Will other colleges accept my courses if I choose to transfer?
A: Yes. The course credits you earn at CCSF will continue to transfer as they do now.

Q: What is CCSF doing to maintain its accreditation?
A: The College takes the concerns of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) very seriously. We take responsibility for addressing, in a timely and comprehensive manner, the 14 recommendations concerning fiscal and structural issues contained in the Commission’s report. The college will be utilizing consultants who have special expertise in addressing the accreditation issues. CCSF’s Accreditation Response Team and several work groups are addressing specific ACCJC recommendations and standards.

We are doing everything we can to remedy the issues raised by the Commission.

Q: What happens next?
A: CCSF is required to submit a Show Cause Report by March 15, 2013. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives. CCSF is also required to prepare a “Closure Report” by March 15, 2013, which is to be submitted with the institution’s Show Cause Report. The Commission also requires the College to develop an overall plan of how it will address the mission, institutional assessments, planning and budgeting issues identified in several of the 2012 team recommendations, and submit a Special Report describing the plan by October 15, 2012.

Q: Why does CCSF have to prepare a formal plan to close?
A: While on Show Cause status, ACCJC requires the college to prepare a “Closure Report” which describes the plan in case of closure. The “Closure Report” is essential to enable a process for students to continue an education plan. CCSF is taking every step and precaution to address the Commission's recommendations to demonstrate why its accreditation should be continued.

Q: Where can I find out more information about accreditation?
A: The accrediting commission, ACCJC, provides information on its website: www.accjc.org
Accreditation Information is posted on CCSF's homepage: www.ccsf.edu