

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

WASC, The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, was formed in 1962 to promote the welfare, interests, and development of education in the Western Region. WASC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, encompassing three accrediting commissions:

Accrediting Commission for Schools (K-12), Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, and Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

All three Commissions share the name "WASC" and function under a single Constitution. Each Commission has standards, policies, personnel procedures, and staff that are specific to that Commission and certified by the WASC Board of Directors.

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges – Standards Approved June 2012

Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Services

The institution offers high-quality instructional programs, student support services, and library and learning support services that facilitate and demonstrate the achievement of stated student learning outcomes. The institution provides an environment that supports learning, enhances student understanding and appreciation of diversity, and encourages personal and civic responsibility as well as intellectual, aesthetic, and personal development for all of its students.

Standard II: Section A.3.: General education has comprehensive learning outcomes for the students who complete it, including the following:

- c. – A recognition of what it means to be an ethical human being and effective citizen: qualities include an appreciation of ethical principles; civility and interpersonal skills; respect for cultural diversity; historical and aesthetic sensitivity; and the willingness to assume civic, political, and social responsibilities locally, nationally, and globally.

The Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

To both meet external requirements of the U.S. Department of Education and – more importantly – fulfill promises made to institutions in the region, WASC has embarked on a thorough review of its Standards of Accreditation, related policies, and institutional review process. This review will culminate in a new and significantly revised, *2012-2020 Handbook of Accreditation*.

Until then, the most appropriate Standard that relates to Civic Engagement is **Standard 2**.

Standard 2: Achieving Educational Objectives Through Core Functions

2.2a – Baccalaureate programs engage students in an integrated course of study of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare them for work, citizenship, and a fulfilling life. These programs also ensure the development of core

learning abilities and competencies including, but not limited to, college-level written and oral communication, college-level quantitative skills, information literacy, and the habit of critical analysis of data and argument. In addition, baccalaureate programs actively foster an understanding of diversity, civic responsibility, the ability to work with others, and the capability to engage in lifelong learning. Baccalaureate programs also ensure breadth for all students in the areas of cultural and aesthetic, social and political, as well as scientific and technical knowledge expected of educated persons in this society. Finally, students are required to engage in an in-depth, focused, and sustained program of study as part of their baccalaureate programs.