



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

Barbara A. Beno, President
Raúl Rodríguez, Chair

November 21, 2016

Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy
Superintendent/President
Solano Community College
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534-3197

Dear Superintendent/President Esposito-Noy:

The Committee on Substantive Change of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges met October 27, 2016 to review the Substantive Change Application from Solano Community College for a:

- 1) New Program: Bachelor of Science in Biomanufacturing

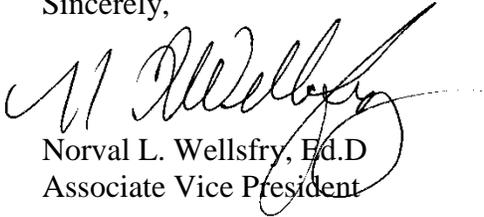
The Committee acted to **Approve** the substantive change. The College must advise the ACCJC of the planned initiation date for the Baccalaureate program. The ACCJC will be conducting a site visit to the College to ascertain the compliance of the program with the eligibility Requirement, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies, especially those specifically applicable to the Baccalaureate Degree program. This visit will be conducted using the *Protocol and Policy on the Accreditation of Baccalaureate Degrees* (attached). This protocol is based on the *Policy for Accreditation of Baccalaureate Degrees*.

In order to facilitate this evaluation visit, the ACCJC requests that Solano Community College provide a report to the Commission prior to the initiation of baccalaureate courses and no later than September 1, 2017. This report will be based on the attached Protocol which will be used as the outline of the report. Appropriate documents should be included in the report to provide evidence of compliance with the identified Eligibility Requirements Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies. An evaluation team will visit the College at a mutually agreeable date within 6 months of the initiation date.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the work that the College undertook to prepare this Application for Substantive Change. The Commission encourages the College's continued work to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission's action, please don't hesitate to contact me. We look forward to providing assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Wellsfry", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Norval L. Wellsfry, Ed.D
Associate Vice President

cc: Ms. Virginia Guleff, Interim Chief Instructional Officer/Accreditation Liaison Officer
Chair, Substantive Chair Committee

Attachment: *Protocol and Policy on the Accreditation of Baccalaureate Degrees*

PROTOCOL AND POLICY ON THE ACCREDITATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

[Colleges that seek approval through the Substantive Change process must address all of the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards identified in this Protocol. Upon institutional implementation of the Baccalaureate Degree, evaluators will examine the evidence provided by the College to support the Eligibility Requirement and Standards listed and determine that the College meets the Standards with respect to the Baccalaureate Degree.]

Eligibility Requirements

1. Authority: *The institution is authorized or licensed to operate as a post-secondary educational institution and to award degrees by an appropriate governmental organization or agency as required by each of the jurisdictions or regions in which it operates.*

Private institutions, if required by the appropriate statutory regulatory body, must submit evidence of authorization, licensure, or approval by that body. If incorporated, the institution shall submit a copy of its articles of incorporation.

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Authority requires that an institution be authorized or licensed as a post-secondary institution to award degrees. An institution wishing to gain approval for a baccalaureate degree will have to provide evidence of the institution's authorization to offer the degree, as required by each of the jurisdictions or regions in which it operates.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Eligibility Requirement and the associated criterion.

Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Standards listed below apply to the institution as a whole and to each baccalaureate program. As appropriate, the list includes criteria indicating how the Standards specifically apply to baccalaureate programs. In addressing the standards, the institution must also address and provide evidence of its practices for the baccalaureate program-specific evaluation criteria identified below.

MISSION

Standard I.A. Mission:

Standard I.A.1. *The mission describes the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, the types of degrees and other credentials it offers, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement. (ER 6)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Baccalaureate degrees generally extend beyond previously identified credentials, service areas, and intended student populations. Member institutions may need to make changes within the institutional mission to reflect these differences.
- The baccalaureate degree program must align with the Institutional mission.
- Student demand for the baccalaureate degree should demonstrate its correlation with the institutional mission.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard I.A.2: *The institution uses data to determine how effectively it is accomplishing its mission, and whether the mission directs institutional priorities in meeting the educational needs of students.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The assessment of data, in addition to measuring institution effectiveness, must also demonstrate the effectiveness and success of the baccalaureate program.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.
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Standard I.A.3: *The institution's programs and services are aligned with its mission. The mission guides institutional decision-making, planning, and resource allocation and informs institutional goals for student learning and achievement.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The baccalaureate program is clearly aligned with the institutional mission.
- The institution has included the baccalaureate degree in its decision making and planning processes, and in setting its goals for student learning and achievement.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

ASSURING ACADEMIC QUALITY AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Standard I.B.2 *The institution defines and assesses student learning outcomes for all instructional programs and student and learning support services. (ER 11)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Student learning outcomes for upper division baccalaureate courses reflect higher levels of depth and rigor generally expected in higher education.
- Assessment must be accurate and distinguish the baccalaureate degree outcomes from those of other programs.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard I.B.3: *The institution establishes institution-set standards for student achievement, appropriate to its mission, assesses how well it is achieving them in pursuit of continuous improvement, and publishes this information. (ER 11)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The Institution has institution-set standards for the baccalaureate program and assesses performance related to those standards. It uses this assessment to improve the quality of the baccalaureate program.
- Student Achievement standards are separately identified and assessed for baccalaureate programs to distinguish them from associate degree programs.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard I.B.7: *The institution regularly evaluates its policies and practices across all areas of the institution, including instructional programs, student and learning support services, resource management, and governance processes to assure their effectiveness in supporting academic quality and accomplishment of mission.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The institutional evaluation policies and practices recognize the unique aspects and requirements of the baccalaureate program in relation to learning and student support services and resource allocation and management.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

Standard I.C.1: *The institution assures the clarity, accuracy, and integrity of information provided to students and prospective students, personnel, and all persons or organizations related to its mission statement, learning outcomes, educational programs, and student support services. The institution gives accurate information to students and the public about its accreditation status with all of its accreditors. (ER 20)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Information related to baccalaureate programs are clear and accurate in all aspects of this Standard, especially in regard to learning outcomes, program requirements, and student

support services.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard I.C.3: *The institution uses documented assessment of student learning and evaluation of student achievement to communicate matters of academic quality to appropriate constituencies, including current and prospective students and the public. (ER 19)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The assessment results of student learning and student achievement in the baccalaureate programs are used in the communication of academic quality.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard I.C.4: *The institution describes its certificates and degrees in terms of their purpose, content, course requirements, and expected learning outcomes.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The purpose, content, course requirements and learning outcomes of the baccalaureate programs are clearly described.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Standard II.A.1: *All instructional programs, regardless of location or means of delivery, including distance education and correspondence education, are offered in fields of study consistent with the institution's mission, are appropriate to higher education, and culminate in student attainment of identified student learning outcomes, and achievement of degrees, certificates, employment, or transfer to other higher education programs. (ER 9 and ER 11)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The baccalaureate degree field of study aligns with the institutional mission.
- Student demand for the baccalaureate degree program demonstrates its correlation with the institutional mission.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.3: *The institution identifies and regularly assesses learning outcomes for courses, programs, certificates and degrees using established institutional procedures. The institution has officially approved and current course outlines that include student learning outcomes. In every class section students receive a course syllabus that includes learning outcomes from the institution's officially approved course outline.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Learning outcomes for baccalaureate courses, programs, and degrees are identified and assessed consistent with institutional processes.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.5: *The institution's degrees and programs follow practices common to American higher education, including appropriate length, breadth, depth, rigor, course sequencing, time to completion, and synthesis of learning. The institution ensures that minimum degree*

requirements are 60 semester credits or equivalent at the associate level, and 120 credits or equivalent at the baccalaureate level. (ER 12)

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- A Minimum of 40 semester credits or equivalent of total upper division coursework including the major and general education is required.
- The academic credit awarded for upper division courses within baccalaureate programs is clearly distinguished from that of lower division courses.
- The instructional level and curriculum of the upper division courses in the baccalaureate degree are comparable to those commonly accepted among like degrees in higher education and reflect the higher levels of knowledge and intellectual inquiry expected at the baccalaureate level.
- Student expectations, including learning outcomes, assignments and examinations of the upper division courses demonstrate the rigor commonly accepted among like degrees in higher education.
- The program length and delivery mode of instruction are appropriate for the expected level of rigor.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.6: *The institution schedules courses in a manner that allows students to complete certificate and degree programs within a period of time consistent with established expectations in higher education.*¹ (ER 9)

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Baccalaureate courses are scheduled to ensure that students will complete those programs in a reasonable period of time.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.
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¹ Glossary- Established expectations in higher education (also, appropriate for, accepted in, common to, accepted norms in, etc): Shared and time honored principles, values and practices within the American community of higher education.

Standard II.A.9: *The institution awards course credit, degrees and certificates based on student attainment of learning outcomes. Units of credit awarded are consistent with institutional policies that reflect generally accepted norms or equivalencies in higher education. If the institution offers courses based on clock hours, it follows Federal standards for clock-to-credit-hour conversions. (ER 10)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Baccalaureate Degrees and the course credit in those programs are based on student learning outcomes. These outcomes are consistent with generally accepted norms and equivalencies in higher education, especially in relation to upper division courses.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.10: *The institution makes available to its students clearly stated transfer-of-credit policies in order to facilitate the mobility of students without penalty. In accepting transfer credits to fulfill degree requirements, the institution certifies that the expected learning outcomes for transferred courses are comparable to the learning outcomes of its own courses. Where patterns of student enrollment between institutions are identified, the institution develops articulation agreements as appropriate to its mission. (ER 10)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Policies for student transfer into the baccalaureate program ensure that all program requirements are fulfilled, including completion of the minimum required semester units, prerequisites, experiential activities, and general education.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.11: *The institution includes in all of its programs, student learning outcomes, appropriate to the program level, in communication competency, information competency, quantitative competency, analytic inquiry skills, ethical reasoning, the ability to engage diverse perspectives, and other program-specific learning outcomes.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Student learning outcomes in baccalaureate programs are consistent with generally accepted norms in higher education and reflect the higher levels expected at the baccalaureate level.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.12: *The institution requires of all of its degree programs a component of general education based on a carefully considered philosophy for both associate and baccalaureate degrees that is clearly stated in its catalog. The institution, relying on faculty expertise, determines the appropriateness of each course for inclusion in the general education curriculum, based upon student learning outcomes and competencies appropriate to the degree level. The learning outcomes include a student's preparation for and acceptance of responsible participation in civil society, skills for lifelong learning and application of learning, and a broad comprehension of the development of knowledge, practice, and interpretive approaches in the arts and humanities, the sciences, mathematics, and social sciences. (ER 12)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- At least 36 semester units or equivalent of lower and upper division general education is required, including at least 9 semester units or equivalent of upper division general education coursework.
- At least 9 semester units or equivalent of upper division general education coursework is required.
- The general education requirements are integrated and distributed to both lower division and upper division courses.
- The general education requirements are distributed across the major subject areas for general education; the distribution appropriately captures the baccalaureate level student learning outcomes and competencies.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this
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Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.13: *All degree programs include focused study in at least one area of inquiry or in an established interdisciplinary core. The identification of specialized courses in an area of inquiry or interdisciplinary core is based upon student learning outcomes and competencies, and include mastery, at the appropriate degree level, of key theories and practices within the field of study.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The baccalaureate degree programs include a focused study on one area of inquiry or discipline at the baccalaureate level and include key theories and practices appropriate to the baccalaureate degree level.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard II.A.14: *Graduates completing career-technical certificates and degrees demonstrate technical and professional competencies that meet employment standards and other applicable standards and preparation for external licensure and certification*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The CTE baccalaureate degree ensures students will be able to meet employment standards and licensure or certification as required in the field of study.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

LIBRARY AND LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

Standard II.B.1: *The institution supports student learning and achievement by providing library and other learning support services to students and to personnel responsible for student learning and support. These services are sufficient in quantity, currency, depth, and variety to*

support educational programs, regardless of location or means of delivery, including distance education and correspondence education. Learning support services include, but are not limited to, library collections, tutoring, learning centers, computer laboratories, learning technology, and ongoing instruction for users of library and other learning support services.

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Learning support services to support the baccalaureate program are sufficient to support the quality, currency, rigor and depth of the baccalaureate degree and reflect the unique needs of this program.
- Resource collections are sufficient in regard to the rigor, currency, and depth expected of baccalaureate programs.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Standard II.C.6: *The institution has adopted and adheres to admission policies consistent with its mission that specify the qualifications of students appropriate for its programs. The institution defines and advises students on clear pathways² to complete degrees, certificate and transfer goals. (ER 16)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The prerequisites and other qualifications for the baccalaureate are appropriately communicated and applied to students.
- The advising of students related to the baccalaureate degree appropriately identifies course sequencing and pathways.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

² Glossary- Pathways: The specific selection and progression of courses and learning experiences students pursue and complete and they progress in their education toward a certificate, degree, transfer, or other identified educational goal.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Standard III.A.1: *The institution assures the integrity and quality of its programs and services by employing administrators, faculty and staff who are qualified by appropriate education, training, and experience to provide and support these programs and services. Criteria, qualifications, and procedures for selection of personnel are clearly and publicly stated and address the needs of the institution in serving its student population. Job descriptions are directly related to institutional mission and goals and accurately reflect position duties, responsibilities, and authority.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The job descriptions for faculty members teaching in the baccalaureate degree accurately reflect the duties and responsibilities associated with the position.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard III.A.2: *Faculty qualifications include knowledge of the subject matter and requisite skills for the service to be performed. Factors of qualification include appropriate degrees, professional experience, discipline expertise, level of assignment, teaching skills, scholarly activities, and potential to contribute to the mission of the institution. Faculty job descriptions include development and review of curriculum as well as assessment of learning. (ER 14)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The qualifications for faculty teaching upper division courses in the baccalaureate degree include the requirement for a master's degree (or academic credentials at least one level higher than the baccalaureate degree) or doctoral degree, in an appropriate discipline.
- In cases where no Master's degree is available for the field of study, the qualifications for faculty teaching upper division courses in the baccalaureate degree include a bachelor's degree in the discipline or closely related discipline, and a Master's degree in any discipline, and demonstrated industry work experience in the field for a minimum of six years, and commonly required industry-recognized certification or professional licensure.
- The Commission may require some faculty in non-career technical education baccalaureate programs to have the recognized terminal degree in the field of study.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this
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Standard and the associated criteria.

Standard III.A.7: *The institution maintains a sufficient number of qualified faculty, which includes full-time faculty and may include part-time and adjunct faculty, to assure the fulfillment of faculty responsibilities essential to the quality of educational programs and services to achieve institutional mission and purposes.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- There is at least one full-time faculty member assigned to the baccalaureate program.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Standard III.B.3: *To assure the feasibility and effectiveness of physical resources in supporting institutional programs and services, the institution plans and evaluates its facilities and equipment on a regular basis, taking utilization and other relevant data into account.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The facilities and other physical resources utilized by the baccalaureate program are evaluated for feasibility and effectiveness for the program on a regular basis.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Standard III.C.1: *Technology services, professional support, facilities, hardware, and software are appropriate and adequate to support the institution's management and operational functions, academic programs, teaching and learning, and support services.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- Technology services, support, facilities, hardware and software utilized by the baccalaureate program are appropriate and adequate for the program.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Standard III.D.1: *Financial resources are sufficient to support and sustain student learning programs and services and improve institutional effectiveness. The distribution of resources supports the development, maintenance, allocation and reallocation, and enhancement of programs and services. The institution plans and manages its financial affairs with integrity and in a manner that ensures financial stability. (ER 18)*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The financial resources allocated to the baccalaureate program are sufficient to support and sustain program student learning and effectiveness.
- Financial resources allocated to the baccalaureate program ensure the financial stability of the program.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

DECISION-MAKING ROLES AND PROCESSES

Standard IV.A.4: *Faculty and academic administrators, through policy and procedures, and through well-defined structures, have responsibility for recommendations about curriculum and student learning programs and services.*

Specified Baccalaureate Degree Program Evaluation Criteria:

- The faculty and academic administrators assigned to the baccalaureate program have responsibility for making recommendations to appropriate governance and decision-making bodies about the curriculum, student learning programs, and services for the program.

College: Provide a description and supporting documentation demonstrating how the College meets this Standard and the associated criteria.

Catalog Requirements

The institution assures that the Catalog provides the following information about the baccalaureate degree program:

1. General Information
 - Course Program and Degree Offerings
 - Student Learning Outcomes for Programs and Degrees
2. Requirements for
 - Degrees, Certificates, Graduation and Transfer

Commission Policies

In preparing its ISER, an institution with one or more ACCJC-accredited baccalaureate degrees must, for the evaluation criteria cited in the Checklist for Evaluating Institutional Compliance with Federal Regulations and Related Commission Policies³ in the categories identified below, specifically address and provide evidence of its practices as to the baccalaureate degree and how those practices meet the criteria.

- Standards and Performance with Respect to Student Achievement

³ See the Checklist for Evaluating Institutional Compliance with Federal Regulations and Related Commission Policies for articulation of the evaluation criteria.

- Credits, Program Length, and Tuition
- Transfer Policies
- Distance Education and Correspondence Education
- Institutional Disclosure and Advertising and Recruitment Materials