

# HARTNELL COLLEGE



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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Accreditation and Probation Status

### **1. What is accreditation?**

Accreditation is a voluntary peer review process that is conducted by professionals at other colleges to ensure the quality of an institution's instructional programs, student services, and other activities.

### **2. Who accredits Hartnell College?**

The college is accredited on a six year cycle by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which is part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

### **3. What is "probation" status?**

Probation status is a sanction imposed on the college. It provides the college with an opportunity to correct issues identified by the Commission. Information on accredited status and various types of sanctions can be found at [http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Team-Evaluator-Manual\\_2012.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Team-Evaluator-Manual_2012.pdf). See pages 15-16.

### **4. Why is Hartnell College's accreditation in probation status?**

The ACCJC determined that the college has deviated significantly from the Commission's eligibility criteria and standards.

### **5. Where can I view the letter sent by the ACCJC to the college regarding the college's accreditation status, and the detailed report of ACCJC's External Evaluation Team?**

These documents and other relevant information can be found on the Hartnell College website (<http://www.hartnell.edu/accreditation/>).

### **6. What does "probationary period" mean?**

The probationary period is the time during which Hartnell College must address the Commission's recommendations. The college remains fully accredited during this period, and remains fully operational.

### **7. Do my classes still count toward my degree or certificate? Will they qualify for transfer?**

Yes. Probation status does not affect if or how classes count toward your degree or certificate. Nor does it affect the transferability of classes already completed or to be completed during the probationary period. All courses taken at Hartnell College that are posted to a transcript will be accepted by other accredited colleges and universities.

**8. Can I still receive an associate degree or certificate?**

Yes. Probation status does not affect the awarding of degrees and/or certificates. Any degree and/or certificate posted to a Hartnell College transcript is fully recognized and accepted during the probationary period.

**9. Does probation status affect specific programs, such as men's and women's athletics, TRiO, EOPS, etc.?**

No. Probation status will not affect any of the college's athletic programs or their competitive standing. It will not affect the status of any other college support programs.

**10. Will my financial aid be affected while the college is on probation?**

No. Eligible students will continue to receive federal and state financial aid.

**11. What happens next?**

The college must submit two follow-up reports to the Commission, one on March 15, 2014, and another on March 15, 2015, each to be followed by a visit of ACCJC representatives. The college must demonstrate that the issues identified are fully corrected or in process of being corrected.

**12. What is Hartnell College doing to address its probation status?**

The college administration has already taken immediate action to address some of the issues, and is developing plans to deal comprehensively with all issues that have been identified. Faculty and staff will participate in implementing these plans and taking specific actions. Per U.S. Department of Education regulations, Hartnell College is expected to fully address all of the recommendations within a two year period.

**13. When will Hartnell College be removed from probation status?**

The ACCJC will remove the college from probation status when it determines that the issues identified have been resolved.

**14. Who may I contact if I have specific questions about Hartnell College's accredited status?**

Up until August 9, 2013, you may contact Dr. Brian Lofman, Accreditation Liaison Officer ([blofman@hartnell.edu](mailto:blofman@hartnell.edu), 831-755-6795). Effective August 12, 2013, you may contact Dr. Lori Kildal, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer ([lkildal@hartnell.edu](mailto:lkildal@hartnell.edu), 831-770-7090).

**15. How can I find out more about accreditation?**

You can go to the ACCJC website (<http://www.accjc.org>) or to the U.S. Department of Education website (<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>).