

Preparing for Accreditation at Master's Focused Institutions: Assuring Efficiency and Value

California State University, Fresno

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Division of Graduate Studies

California State University, Fresno

- Established 1911, Centennial Celebration April 2010 through May 2011
 - History as a normal school
- Current total enrollment 22,383
 - Graduate – 3,211
- Diverse Institution
 - Hispanic Serving
- 48 graduate degree programs
 - Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)
 - Ed.D.in Educational Leadership
 - Ed.S. in School Psychology

Schools and Colleges

- Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Arts and Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Health and Human Services
- Science and Mathematics
- Social Sciences

Division of Graduate Studies

- “Academic” deans have primary responsibility for graduate programs
- Oversees all graduate programs in all schools and colleges
- “Watchdog”

- Began WASC outcomes assessment 15 years ago
- Included both undergraduate and graduate
 - Put us ahead of other programs
- Included regional engagement
 - Carnegie classification

- Last accreditation 2004
- First campus under new process requiring Outcomes Assessment
- Overarching Theme:
 - “A Learning Community”
 - Three subthemes:
 - Opportunity
 - Exploration
 - Interaction

- Opportunity
 - Access to quality programs for diverse populations
- Exploration
 - Discovery of knowledge, self, and society through expanding horizons
- Interaction
 - Transformation through integration of knowledge and experience

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

- 4 standards of educational effectiveness
 - 1. Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Integrity
 - 2. Achieving Educational Objectives through Core Functions
 - 3. Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Sustainability
 - 4. Creating an Organization Committed to Learning and Improvement

WASC Report

- “Urged (CSU, Fresno) to develop clear institutional learning goals and objectives and focus its attention on the development of such goals so that assessment of student learning outcomes and program effectiveness can be anchored in the core values of the institution.”

Cited four specific areas:

- Strategic Planning
- Expectations for Faculty
- Exploring new Program Modalities
- University response to NCAA issues

Addressed Concerns

- Updated assessment information of GE
- Increased focus on research
 - Teaching Institution
 - Ramifications for Graduate Programs
 - Faculty workload
 - Faculty grant writing
 - Faculty buy out
 - Graduate Assistantship

Student Outcomes Assessment Planning (SOAP)

- Primary issues around program and educational objectives assessment
- Internal Program Review
 - (Graduate Dean responsible for Graduate Program Review)
 - Developed templates for self-study, report, and action plans

Graduate Augmentation

- Results of the Review led to Graduate Augmentation Awards
 - Provost provided dollars for:
 - Tuition waivers
 - Graduate assistants
 - Faculty enhancement awards

Accreditation

