PREPARING FOR A REVIEW OF WESTMONT COLLEGE
BY THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC)

“STANDARDS”

During the 2015-2016 school year, WASC will ask a team of faculty and administrators from other colleges and universities to assess Westmont’s program and operations. This review of Westmont will be based on WASC’s four STANDARDS:

1. **Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives.** The institution defines its purposes and establishes educational objectives aligned with those purposes. The institution has a clear and explicit sense of its essential values and character, its distinctive elements, its place in both the higher education community and society, and its contribution to the public good. It functions with integrity, transparency, and autonomy.

2. **Achieving Educational Objectives Through Core Functions.** The institution achieves its purposes and attains its educational objectives at the institutional and program level through the core functions of teaching and learning, scholarship and creative activity, and support for student learning and success. The institution demonstrates that these core functions are performed effectively by evaluating valid and reliable evidence of learning and by supporting the success of every student.

3. **Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability.** The institution sustains its operations and supports the achievement of its educational objectives through investments in human, physical, fiscal, technological, and information resources and through an appropriate and effective set of organizational and decision-making structures. These key resources and organizational structures promote the achievement of institutional purposes and educational objectives and create a high-quality environment for learning.

4. **Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement.** The institution engages in sustained, evidence-based, and participatory self-reflection about how effectively it is accomplishing its purposes and achieving its educational objectives. The institution considers the changing environment of higher education in envisioning its future. These activities inform both institutional planning and systematic evaluations of educational effectiveness. The results of institutional inquiry, research, and data collection are used to establish priorities, to plan, and to improve quality and effectiveness.

“CRITERIA FOR REVIEW”

For each of these four standards, CRITERIA FOR REVIEW (CFR) have been established to help the team from WASC assess Westmont in the following areas:

1. **Defining Institutional Purposes and Ensuring Educational Objectives**
   - a. Institutional Purposes (CFRs 1.1 - 1.2)
   - b. Integrity and Transparency (CFRs 1.3 - 1.8)

2. **Achieving Educational Objectives Through Core Functions**
   - a. Teaching and Learning (CFRs 2.1 – 2.7)
   - b. Scholarship and Creative Activity (CFRs 2.8 – 2.9)
   - c. Student Learning and Success (CFRs 2.10 – 2.14)
3. **Developing and Applying Resources and Organizational Structures to Ensure Quality and Sustainability**
   a. Faculty and Staff (CFRs 3.1 – 3.3)
   b. Fiscal, Physical, and Information Resources (CFRs 3.4 – 3.5)
   c. Organization Structures and Decision-Making (CFRs 3.6 – 3.10)

4. **Creating an Organization Committed to Quality Assurance, Institutional Learning, and Improvement**
   a. Quality Assurance Processes (CFRs 4.1 – 4.2)
   b. Institutional Learning and Improvement (CFRs 4.3 – 4.7)

This results in a total of 39 Criteria for Review.

**"PRELIMINARY SELF-REVIEW"**

WASC asks that Westmont conduct a **PRELIMINARY SELF-REVIEW** to:

1. Gather evidence that shows Westmont’s programs and operations comply with WASC’s four STANDARDS (as delineated in related CRITERIA FOR REVIEW)
2. Identify key areas where more evidence is needed or more development is required
3. Determine (based on the evidence provided) areas of strength and of good practice
4. Identify (based on the evidence provided) areas to be addressed or improved
5. For each STANDARD, select the two or three most important issues for Westmont to emphasize with the team visiting from WASC.

**Where are we in this preliminary self-review process?**

- So far, the WASC Steering Committee\(^1\) has worked with others to accomplish the first step: evidence has been gathered that relates to Westmont’s compliance with WASC’s four standards and 39 Criteria for Review.

- **Through March, members of the Steering Committee will now be meeting with various individuals and groups to get input on four questions for each standard:**
  1. **Are there key areas where more evidence is needed or more development is required?**
  2. **Based on the evidence provided, what are related areas of strength and of good practice?**
  3. **Based on the evidence provided, what areas need to be addressed or improved?**
  4. **What are the two or three most important issues for Westmont to emphasize with the team visiting from WASC?**

- In April, the WASC Steering Committee will discuss the input received and begin work on an institutional report for the WASC visiting team that is based on the findings of our self-review or self-study process.

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\(^1\) WASC Steering Committee members are Mark Sargent (co-chair), Chris Call (co-chair), Dinora Cardoso, Stu Cleek, Patti Hunter, Tom Knecht, Robin Lang, Eileen McMahon McQuade, Tatiana Nazarenko, and Bill Wright