

November 17, 2020

Mr. Nick Gomez  
President  
San Joaquin Valley College  
3828 West Caldwell Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear President Gomez:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting November 6, 2020. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 to SJVC August 12 – 14, 2020. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by SJVC prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 and the institution's October 8, 2020 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues Donn Ritter, Board of Governors chair, Sumer Avila, Provost, and Crystal VanderTuig, Director of Institutional Relations and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2025 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2026
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by May 30, 2021 to address:
  - a. A formal written service agreement between SJVC and Ember Education.
  - b. The need to reduce the cohort default rate including a plan with goals, timelines and resources.
5. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2023 to address the six recommendations in this letter.

The Commission commends SJVC in particular for the following:

1. Ensuring that the institution's mission is widely embraced by the Board of Governors, administration, staff, faculty, and students.
2. Building a sound strategic planning foundation that uses principles and protocols to determine, prioritize, implement and evaluate improvement initiatives and strategic work throughout all levels of the college.
3. Involving the faculty in the design of a learning environment with practical application in the workforce.
4. Promoting a collaborative team approach to supporting students as they pursue their education.
5. Committing institutional resources to professional development for leadership, faculty, and staff.

6. Responding quickly and comprehensively to the pandemic by dedicating information and financial resources to students and staff.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Prioritize and broadly demonstrate the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the institution (CFR 1.4).
2. Expand the definition of student achievement to include an analysis of annual cohort retention and graduation rate data, facilitate benchmarking against external measures and make these results visible to the public (CFR 2.10, 2.11, 4.1).
3. Evaluate technology resources, including wireless capacity, to ensure that student needs are met (CFR 3.5).
4. Clarify the roles, services and lines of responsibility between Ember and SJVC by formalizing the relationship between the entities (CFR 3.7).
5. Exercise the guiding authority of the Board of Governors and its enhanced independence (CFR 3.9).
6. Strengthen the role of the Academic Council to facilitate effective academic leadership by the faculty (CFR 3.10)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that SJVC addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, SJVC should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

SJVC must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*San Joaquin Valley College is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by SJVC at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

Institutions granted Initial Accreditation are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report in the format required by the Commission.
2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process.
3. Pay Annual Membership Dues prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of the SJVC governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the SJVC's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that San Joaquin Valley College undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamienne S. Studley  
President

JSS/mam

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Commission Chair  
Crystal VanderTuig, ALO  
Donn Ritter, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 1 team  
Maureen A Maloney, Vice President

## Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees by Modality

### On-Site

#### Associate of Science Degrees

- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Business Office Administration
- Clinical and Administrative Medical Assisting
- Construction Management
- Criminal Justice: Corrections
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Electrical Technology
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Medical Office Administration
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physical Therapy Assisting
- Registered Nursing
- Registered Nursing - LVN to RN Bridge
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology
- Certificate to Associate of Science Bridge Program in Veterinary Assistant to
- Veterinary Technology
- Veterinary Technology
- Vocational Nursing

#### Certificates

- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Business Office Administration
- Clinical Medical Assisting
- Dental Assisting
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Electrical Technology
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Medical Office Administration
- Pharmacy Technology
- Registered Nursing
- Veterinary Assistant
- Vocational Nursing

## **Distance Education**

### **Baccalaureate Degrees**

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Care Management
- Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing

### **Associate of Science Degrees**

- Business Office Administration
- Clinical and Administrative Medical Assisting
- Construction Management
- Human Resources Administration
- Information Technology
- Medical Billing and Coding

### **Certificates**

- Business Office Administration
- Clinical Medical Assisting
- Human Resources Administration
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Computer Support
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Networking
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Security
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Networking Support
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Security Support
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Computer Support, Networking, and Security
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Computer Support and Networking
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Networking and Security
- Information Technology with a Concentration in Computer Support and Security
- Medical Billing and Coding