



# INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION UPDATE

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

Fall 2023



### Important Date

March 1, 2025 Interim Report Due

#### ***What is WSCUC?***

The [Western Senior College and University Commission \(WSCUC\)](#) is the accrediting agency that aids institutions in developing and sustaining effective educational programs, while assuring the community that the accredited institution has met the high standards of quality and effectiveness.

#### ***What was the result of the Special Visit in March 2023?***

WSCUC conducted a Special Visit on March 7-10, 2023 focused on the seven recommendations identified by the Commission in the [reaffirmation of accreditation letter](#) from February 2020. In its [action letter](#), the Commission offered six commendations and seven recommendations.

### WSCUC Commendations

- Strengthening the office of Institutional, Research, Planning and Assessment (IRPA)'s data reporting and analysis by building a campus data warehouse, improving data quality, defining campus data using the systemwide data dictionary, and starting to develop self-service data dashboards.
- Developing and implementing the strategic plan through a collaborative, inclusive and transparent process that involved metrics for measuring progress, a widely shared dashboard, and clear alignment between the plan and budgeting, resource allocation, campus priorities, and fundraising.
- Improving retention and graduation rates for both first-time freshmen and transfer students, with expectations of meeting Graduation Initiative 2025 targets, due in part to the successful efforts of the GAT (Graduation Action Team) and the CARE Team (Caring Advocates and Responsive Engagement).
- Launching the cluster hire initiative using DEI best practices to build capacity and awareness for recruiting and onboarding a diverse applicant pool.
- Establishing a clear process and strong foundation to assess administrative units, which included developing mission statements for all areas and an initial assessment plan for the majority of the 61 units.
- Demonstrating its commitment to its mission and values by successfully leading and supporting both the campus and surrounding communities through the pandemic, including efforts to support student well-being, prepare faculty to teach online, and establish the Community Vaccination Hub.

## WSCUC Recommendations

- Enhance the effectiveness of advising by clarifying the roles of faculty advisors and professional advising staff, strengthening relationships, implementing collaborative training, standardizing terminology, practices and policies across schools and departments, while maintaining discipline-specific flexibility, and developing clear success metrics.
- Cultivate a campus culture that embraces data-informed decision-making by promoting the use of resources provided by IRPA, while also providing continued support for IRPA's initiatives focused on improving data quality, accuracy, and accessibility.
- Coordinate the collective efforts of IRPA, the Campus Assessment Team, and faculty assessment coordinators to enhance the capacity for student learning outcomes assessment, making student success analytics easily accessible to support assessment initiatives and enabling data-informed actions for continuous improvement of the student learning experience.
- Continue to focus on closing equity gaps in graduation rates, particularly among Pell recipients, underrepresented minority (URM) students, and first-generation students, while also developing appropriate dashboards to effectively analyze and communicate relevant data.
- Finalize, approve, and implement the Faculty and Staff Diversity Plan, including defining essential measures of success and integrating the plan with budget planning, resource allocation, and organizational structure.
- Enhance faculty recruitment and retention by implementing strategies similar to those employed in the successful cluster hire initiative.
- Foster a campus culture that actively promotes a sense of well-being and belonging for all faculty, staff and students, empowering the university community to fully engage and thrive.

### ***What are CSUB's next steps?***

In the 2023 action letter, the Commission directed CSUB to complete an Interim Report addressing the campus progress on three of the recommendations from the March 2023 Special Visit, namely those concerning academic advising, data-informed decision-making and the faculty and staff diversity plan.

While the campus will work diligently to address all seven recommendations, making progress on academic advising, data-informed decision-making, and the faculty and staff diversity plan is a top priority for the next eighteen months. The WSCUC Steering Committee will begin working on the interim report in spring 2024.

### ***How can I learn more or get involved?***

For additional information about institutional accreditation or to access the Steering Committee agendas and meeting notes, please visit [WSCUC Accreditation | California State University, Bakersfield \(csub.edu\)](https://www.csub.edu/wscuc).

If you would like to serve on the WSCUC Steering Committee please email Marta Ruiz at [mruiz14@csub.edu](mailto:mruiz14@csub.edu).