General Modality Approval for Distance Education Programs

Effective July 1, 2013, The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has officially granted San José State University (SJSU) the General modality approval for distance education programs. This means that WASC will no longer need SJSU to demonstrate experience in offering distance education programs in order to pursue a substantive change approval for new distance education programs.

It is important to note that this exception does not supersede SJSU’s degree level approval designations. SJSU will continue to require prior approval for all new distance education programs at degree levels for which it has “Specified” or “Individual” degree level approval. The Degree Level Approval policy can be found at: http://wascsenior.org/files/Degree_Level_Approval_Policy.pdf

SJSU’s degree level authorizations are:
Bachelors: General
Masters: General
Professional Doctorates: Individual

In order to qualify for this exemption, SJSU must:

- Have operated at least five approved distance education programs for at least five years.
- Be in good standing with WASC.
- Receive approval for the exemption from the institution’s WASC staff liaison.

SJSU is required to report all new degree programs within 30 days of implementation by submitting the Program Implementation Form. It is also important to note that all new programs must be reported on the Annual Report each year. When it is time for the next review, SJSU is responsible for proving that it has monitored the quality of its new programs through assessment, program review, and other means that are linked to program improvement.

Additionally, SJSU is responsible for identifying clear outcomes and quality performance indicators for each degree, which are regularly tracked to support review and improvements of degree programs individually, and programs offered in the modality collectively.

The Commission can change SJSU’s status based on the results of the accreditation reviews. Notwithstanding a previously designated approval, if SJSU is under sanction, we may be required to submit all new degree programs for prior review and approval as a condition of the sanction.

If you have any questions about this General Modality Approval for SJSU, contact Dennis Jaehne dennis.jaehne@sjsu.edu.