



The Accreditation Commission Standards Themes

The **four** Commission **Standards** work together in an integrated way and **six** **themes** thread throughout them. These themes can provide guidance and structure to self-reflective dialogue and evaluation of institutional effectiveness as the institution prepares its self study. The themes include:

- **Institutional commitments** to providing high quality education congruent with institutional mission, to focusing on student learning, and to periodic reflection on the mission statement;
- **Evaluation, planning, and improvement** in an ongoing and systematic cycle that includes evaluation, goal setting, resource distribution, implementation, and reevaluation;
- **Student learning outcomes** as the conscious and robust demonstration of the effectiveness of institutional efforts to produce and support student learning by developing student learning outcomes at the course, program, certificate, and degree level;
- **Organization** as demonstrated in having adequate staff, resources and organizational structure (communication and decision making structures) to identify and make public learning outcomes, to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in producing those outcomes, and to make improvements;
- **Dialogue** as a means to ongoing participation in institutional self-reflection based on reliable information about the college's programs and services and evidence on how well the institution is meeting student needs;
- **Institutional integrity** demonstrated by concern with honesty, truthfulness, and the manner in which the institution represents itself to all stakeholders, internal and external.

Note—

For a more complete discussion of these themes, see *Guide to Evaluating Institutions*.