

PLANNING VISITS IN MULTI-COLLEGE DISTRICTS/SYSTEMS

The Commission has scheduled simultaneous visits for all colleges in Multi-College Systems. This facilitates a **single comprehensive examination of the quality of system services and degree to which they support institutional abilities to meet or exceed accreditation standards**, and avoids multiple and conflicting messages about the efficacy of system administrative and other functions. The Commission's "Policy and Procedures for the Evaluation of Institutions in Multi-College/Multi-Unit Districts or Systems" details the principles and procedures that guide this review of system functions.

A lead team chair will be chosen from among the chairs of all the teams visiting colleges in a single system. This lead chair will have responsibility for coordinating review of system functions and for writing recommendations for improvement of the system. Each visiting team should identify issues it believes bear investigation at the district or system level. The lead team chair will ask for limited members of each team to participate in the visit to the district/system officers and personnel.

The lead team chair will develop, in consultation with the other chairs and teams, language for any recommendations given for district/system improvement. The identical language should appear in each team report written for individual colleges so that the message given about improving district/system functions is consistent. In *rare* cases, one or more of the colleges in a multi-college system may not have difficulty meeting standards due to district/system deficiencies. In this case, that college's team report may not include the recommendations about the system. This situation usually arises when the district/system treats or administers the multiples colleges in different manners. However, team chairs are advised to ensure that the district/system issues that the combined team finds are examined to determine whether and how they affect each college in the system.

See the policy in the *Accreditation Reference Handbook*.