

Statement on Terms of Accreditation for WASC Accredited Adventist Academies

Adventist education and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (WASC) have a long history of collaboration for the purpose of holding schools accountable to quality education. The Pacific Union Conference Director of Education has been a member of the WASC Commission for K-12 education from its beginning. The NAD Commission on Accreditation which represents the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) for K-12 schools has continued to maintain co-accreditation with WASC and other regional accrediting entities across the country. However, there is currently a non-alignment in evaluation protocols between AAA—WASC that may be of interest and importance to your school.

In 2012, WASC changed from granting a “term” of accreditation to schools to granting a “status” of accreditation. The status options that WASC grants are (1) accredited status, (2) probationary status, or (3) not accredited. However, AAA continues to grant a term of accreditation for a set number of years. The impact of this change will not be noticed in how the evaluation process occurs. In fact, both entities maintain a full six-year cycle between full on-site evaluations. But, it will be noticed by all schools in the nomenclature on the accreditation certificates. And for a few schools, there will be a difference in the expiration date of the certificate.

The schools that will notice this difference are those that receive the following: (a) from WASC an accredited status with a mid-cycle review of one or two days, and (b) from AAA a three-year term with a two day Revisit in the third year resulting in different dates of expiration. The mid-cycle review (WASC) and the Revisit (AAA) will be one and the same visit and will follow the WASC structured protocol. A positive result from this visit will be continued accreditation from WASC and no new certificate. And from AAA, the positive result will also be continued accreditation and noted by the granting of another three-year term of accreditation completing a six-year cycle between full evaluations.

Both AAA and WASC continue to accredit within the framework of a six-year cycle of accountability for education quality based on a school’s capacity, commitment, and competence to support effective student learning and continuous school improvement. It is our hope that this explanation and the chart on the following page will clarify the differences that currently exist between AAA and WASC, while also assuring Adventist school leaders that the integrity of co-accreditation protocols remains intact.

AAA Term	AAA Process		WASC Status	WASC Process
6-Year Term Clear	Mid-term Progress Report submitted.	↔	6-Year Accredited Status	Mid-cycle Progress Report submitted.
6-Year Term with Interim Review	Mid-term Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>following WASC protocol</i>)	↔	6-Year Accredited Status & Mid-cycle Visit	Mid-term Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>WASC protocol</i>)*
3-Year Term with Revisit.	Mid-term Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>following WASC protocol including former Chairperson</i>)	↔		
2-Year Term with Revisit	In-depth Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>following WASC protocol including former Chairperson</i>)	↔	2-Year Probationary Status	In-depth Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>WASC protocol</i>)*
1-Year Probation	In-depth Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>following WASC protocol including former Chairperson</i>)	↔	1-Year Probationary Status	In-depth Progress Report and On-site Visit (<i>WASC protocol</i>) *
Accreditation Denied		↔	Accreditation Status Withheld	

* The length of the mid-cycle on-site (1-day or 2-day) is determined by WASC and is a function of (a) the depth of needed support and/or time needed to assess change in the many significant deviations from the evaluative criteria and/or (b) school size.