



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

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July 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM

Southwest Texas Junior College

**TO: Presidents of Institutions Participating in the
Virtual College of Texas (VCT) State-Wide Review**
(See list attached)

FROM: Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D
Belle S. Wheelan
**President
Commission on Colleges**

**RE: Clarification of Substantive Change and the VCT State-Wide
Review**

Dear Colleagues:

By now each of you should have received the Commission's action letter following peer review of distance learning courses offered by "Provider" institutions, facilitated through the VCT, with credits transcribed by "Host" institutions – those institutions where students were actually enrolled. In this arrangement, the Host institution, in effect, provided instruction for its students through arrangements with other institutions; thus, the Host institution was held responsible for the quality of instruction and all related services.

The thirty-nine institutions participating in the state-wide review were all involved as a Host for VCT-facilitated instruction to a greater or lesser extent. Some institutions hosted only a few courses, others hosted many. In discussions between Mr. Ron Thomson, Director of the Virtual College of Texas, Dr. Rey Garcia, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, and Drs. Tom Benberg and Rudy Jackson of the Commission staff, we have agreed to the following clarifications of substantive change which we believe are fair to the VCT-participating institutions and which are consistent with Commission policy and practice:

1. All 39 host institutions on the attached list are now approved to offer courses through distance learning within the framework of each institution's existing mission.
2. Of the 39 host institutions on the attached list, 17 were either offering or intending to offer 50% or more of a degree program via distance learning, which may include 50% or more VCT-facilitated instruction; thus the 17

(bolded/asterisked) institutions are hereby approved to offer 50% or more of a degree program via distance learning subject to number 1 above.

3. The other 22 institutions are approved to offer up to 50% of a degree program via distance learning subject to number 1 above. When these institutions approach the 50% threshold, they should notify the Commission for further information.
4. All 39 institutions will have their distance learning programs reviewed at their next reaffirmation date provided it occurs in 2008 or after; thus, distance learning programming should clearly be included in their Compliance Certifications.

Thanks to all of you for your excellent work and collaborative spirit on this important state-wide review. It has been our pleasure to serve you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Drs. Tom Benberg or Rudy Jackson. Best wishes.

Cc: Accreditation Liaisons
Dr. Rey Garcia, Executive Director, Texas Association of
Community Colleges
Mr. Ron Thomson, Director, Virtual College of Texas
Dr. Tom Benberg, Vice President/Chief of Staff, COC
Dr. Rudy Jackson, Vice President, COC
Institutional Files at COC

Attachment

39 Colleges Participating in VCT-SACS State-Wide Review

Bolded/asterisked institutions denotes that they are either offering or intending to offer 50% or more of a degree program via distance learning, which may include 50% or more VCT-facilitated instruction

1.	Alvin Community College*
2.	Austin Community College
3.	Blinn College
4.	Brazosport College
5.	Cisco Junior College*
6.	Clarendon College
7.	College of the Mainland*
8.	Del Mar College
9.	El Paso Community College
10.	Frank Phillips College*
11.	Galveston College*
12.	Houston Community College System
13.	Howard College*
14.	Kilgore College
15.	Laredo Community College
16.	Lee College*
17.	Midland College*
18.	Navarro College
19.	North Central Texas College*
20.	North Harris Montgomery Community College District*
21.	Northeast Texas Community College
22.	Odessa College
23.	Panola College
24.	Paris Junior College*
25.	South Plains College
26.	Southwest Texas Junior College*
27.	Tarrant County College District*
28.	Temple College*
29.	Texarkana College
30.	Texas Southmost College
31.	Texas State Technical College – Harlingen
32.	Texas State Technical College – Marshall
33.	Texas State Technical College – Waco
34.	Trinity Valley Community College*
35.	Tyler Junior College
36.	Vernon College*
37.	Victoria College
38.	Weatherford College
39.	Western Texas College*