

# Gavilan College Strengthens Accreditation and Institutional Planning With Precision Campus

*How one California community college uses Precision Campus for the data transparency, program review, and real-time reporting needed to meet accreditation standards*

Gavilan College is a public community college serving students in Gilroy and surrounding communities in California's South Bay region. As the institution prepares for its spring 2026 accreditation review, leaders needed a reliable way to provide transparent access to institutional data, support program review, and align performance metrics with the college's mission.

By implementing Precision Campus in 2024, Gavilan College established a centralized location where faculty, administrators, and staff could easily access trusted institutional data. Today, the institutional research (IR) team uses Precision Campus to support accreditation readiness, strengthen program review participation, and foster a culture of data-informed decision-making across campus.

## Reestablishing a Reliable Data Platform

As Gavilan College prepared for accreditation, leaders recognized an opportunity to strengthen how institutional data was accessed, shared, and used across campus.

The college had previously implemented Precision Campus in 2018, but after leadership changes within the IR office, the platform fell out of use. In the years that followed, Gavilan relied primarily on dashboards built in Tableau to provide visibility into metrics. While these dashboards offered valuable

insights, access was limited to a smaller group of users, and inconsistencies in reporting led to doubts about the data's validity.

"When people saw different numbers coming from different departments, they didn't trust the data," said Hazel DeAussen, Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Gavilan.

To address these challenges, Gavilan reintroduced Precision Campus in 2024, creating a centralized platform where faculty, staff, and administrators could access consistent, reliable data in one place.

The timing aligned closely with the college's preparation for its institutional self-study report, giving teams the tools they needed to support accreditation efforts with greater transparency and confidence. A new Vice President of Academic Affairs — who previously worked at De Anza College, where Precision Campus is widely used — helped reinforce the decision and accelerate adoption across campus.

"It really fell into place," De Aussen said. "We were preparing our self-evaluation and getting ready for accreditation, so having Precision Campus again was helpful."



## Making Program Review Easier for Faculty and Staff

Program review is a key part of accreditation, requiring departments to analyze student outcomes and develop improvement plans aligned with institutional goals. However, gathering the data needed for these reviews had historically been a hurdle for Gavilan's faculty and staff.

Precision Campus removed that barrier by giving departments direct access to the data they needed. "The goal was to make sure people had the data available to them so they didn't have to search for it," DeAussen explained.

Departments across the college can now easily access reports on enrollment, retention, and course success rates, and even embed reports on the college's website so users can view the data without logging into the system.

This accessibility drove a significant increase in participation in program review. In fall 2024, only 37% of programs completed their reviews. After the IR team introduced training workshops and expanded use of Precision Campus, that number rose to 79%.

## Exploring Student Outcomes Through Cohort Data

Beyond standard reports, Gavilan faculty and staff also use Precision Campus to analyze student outcomes through cohort tracking. This feature enables departments to group students and track their progress across semesters.

Departments can examine whether students enrolled in subsequent terms, how they performed in their courses, and how their outcomes compare to other groups. "That cohort feature has been important for us," De Aussen said. "People can look at outcomes for specific groups of students and include that analysis in their program reviews."

Users can also save filtered reports and add notes directly within the platform. These annotations enable faculty to revisit analyses later without having to recreate them.

For accreditation purposes, this documentation helps demonstrate that departments are actively reviewing and discussing their data. This is important because "Accreditors want to see that you're talking about your data and revisiting your goals," DeAussen explained.

## Creating Transparency Around Institutional Data

Improving transparency around institutional data has been another key goal for Gavilan's IR office.

With Precision Campus, faculty and staff across the institution can access the same reports and metrics used by administrators and researchers. The platform utilizes data from the college's student information system, ensuring that all users are working with consistent information.



“Our IT team uploads the data directly from our student information system,” De Ausen said. “So we know that it’s our data going into those reports.”

Users can also disaggregate results by factors such as age, gender, race and ethnicity, financial aid status, and enrollment status. These filters make it possible for departments to better understand the outcomes of different student populations and identify equity gaps.

That insight is especially important for Gavilan, which serves a diverse student body that includes dual-enrollment high school students and adult learners over age 25.

## Supporting Strategic Planning and Accreditation

Precision Campus also helps Gavilan College monitor institutional metrics and track progress toward strategic goals — another key component of the accreditation process.

The platform provides a central location where committees and leadership teams can access reports related to enrollment trends, student retention, and program outcomes. This enables faculty and administrators to review data together and make more informed decisions.

For Gavilan’s small IR team — just two staff members, including DeAusen — this accessibility is invaluable. By giving faculty and staff the ability to explore their own data, the platform reduces the need for the research office to create custom reports for every request.

“Now people can get their data anytime,” said DeAusen. “They don’t have to email us for it.”

As Gavilan prepares for its upcoming accreditation review, Precision Campus continues to play a central role in helping the college align its planning, program evaluation, and student success initiatives.

Want to experience Precision Campus for yourself?

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