



1. At its meeting on June 19, 2014, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved the following new/revised policies and guidelines that directly affect institutions. The documents will be posted to the SACSCOC Web site by August 1st.

- “Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status.” This policy statement was previously classified as a guideline for institutions; however, due to increased expectations for accrediting commissions to protect the consumer, the policy statement is specific regarding the obligations of institutions in the areas of advertising, publications, promotional literature, student recruitment for admissions, and representation of accredited status.
- “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure.” This new policy outlines in one document an institution’s obligations to provide information that is complete, accurate, timely, accessible, clear and sufficient. Among the six (6) items listed, Item 4 addresses the standards of the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) which requires that SACSCOC include in its standards or in a policy the requirement that an institution publishes statements of its goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals.
- “Core Requirement 2.7.1 (Program length): An Interpretation.” This new policy expands the interpretation of Core Requirement 2.7.1 and expects institutions with combination programs with degrees conferred by the same institution to meet or exceed the credit hour thresholds in the standard for the degrees awarded (e.g., a combination baccalaureate and master’s degree is a combined minimum 150 semester credit hours).
- “Core Requirement 2.8 (Faculty): Guidelines.” This document replaces the former template for addressing compliance with Core Requirement 2.8. Instead of focusing on data-driven information about the number of full-time faculty engaged in teaching, it stresses how an institution should look at its critical mass of full-time, qualified faculty to provide direction and oversight of academic programs. This is a shift to viewing sufficiency of full-time staff to that of their obligations to fulfill basic faculty functions. This will be posted on the SACSCOC website under “Guidelines” and under “Templates.”

The new/revised policies and guidelines have been posted on the SACSCOC Web site. Because some of the policies contain requirements that overlap with those outlined in other SACSCOC policies, in the future staff will review and streamline them in order to avoid confusion and redundancy. Until then, we wanted to make you aware of your current obligations.

In addition, we call your attention to the current efforts of staff to reformat all our policies to include the SACSCOC trademark on all documents. We are also seeking to standardize margins, justification, and the like. In these cases, we will note the document as “reformatted” but will not change the date of adoption or editing.

2. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees also approved a \$200 increase in fees assessed for the review of a substantive change prospectus and an application form. The new fee of \$500 became effective July 1, 2014. The previous \$300 fee was first initiated in 1997 and could no longer sustain the costs associated with the reviews of substantive change. This change is also being noted in appropriate policies.