



SACSCOC Accreditation and Your Role

Why is Accreditation Important?

- ④ The *Principles of Accreditation* by SACSCOC articulate standards, which are fundamentally important to us as an institution of higher education committed to providing a quality educational environment and experience for all students.
- ④ Accreditation is essential to maintaining our reputation as an institution providing a high quality educational experience.
- ④ Failure to comply with the Principles of Accreditation by SACSCOC has serious financial consequences, including loss of the ability to award federal student aid.

What is your role in the accreditation process?

Involvement of every faculty and staff member at the College is essential to the success of the reaffirmation process!

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

- ④ Participate in the selection of the topic through on-going, comprehensive planning and evaluation.
- ④ Support the QEP through active participation.
- ④ Participate in writing the plan with a focus on student learning/success.
- ④ Be involved with the initiation, implementation, and/or completion of the plan.
- ④ Commit the necessary resources for the success of the plan (time, expertise, money, etc.)
- ④ Participate in the assessment of the plan.
- ④ Participate in the review of the QEP by the SACSCOC on-site committee during its 3-day visit to CCC.
- ④ Be informed – know what the QEP is, how it was selected, and how it will be implemented.

Compliance Certification

- ④ Methodically document the College's compliance with each of the standards in the *Principles of Accreditation*. Each faculty and staff member has a fundamental responsibility to document the College's compliance with the standards in their area of responsibility.
- ④ Make a compelling case for the College's compliance when writing assigned standards.
- ④ Provide institutional memory and documentary evidence to support narratives for standards relating to your area.
- ④ Participate actively in the on-site visit by the SACSCOC on-site committee.

Standards Specific to Your Role: Chairs and Deans

The reaffirmation process is the collective responsibility of our entire College community! However, the following standards are specifically aligned with your responsibilities at the College.

Standard 2: Mission: It is the responsibility of all members of the College community to support the goals of the College's mission through strategic planning and assessment.

Standard 3.b: An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status offers all coursework required for at least one degree program at each level at which it awards degrees. (*Coursework for degrees*) [CR]

Standard 3.c: An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status is in operation and has students enrolled in degree programs. (*Continuous operation*) [CR]

Standard 6.1: The institution employs an adequate number of full-time faculty members to support the mission and goals of the institution. (*Full-time faculty*) [CR]

Standard 6.3: For each of its educational programs, the institution (a) justifies and documents the qualifications of its faculty members; (b) employs a sufficient number of full-time faculty members to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review; and (c) assigns appropriate responsibility for program coordination.

Standard 6.3: The institution publishes and implements policies regarding the appointment, employment and regular evaluation of faculty members, regardless of contract or tenure status.

Standard 6.4: The institution publishes and implements appropriate policies and procedures for preserving and protecting academic freedom.

Standard 7.2: The institution has a Quality Enhancement Plan that (a) has a topic identified through its ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes; (b) has broad-based support of institutional constituencies; (c) focuses on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success; (d) commits resources to initiate, implement, and complete the QEP; and (e) includes a plan to assess achievement.

Standard 8: Student Achievement – (a) *Student achievement* [CR]; and (b) *Student outcomes: educational programs*.

Standard 9: Educational Program Structure and Content – (a) *Program content* [CR]; (b) *Program length* [CR]; (c) *General Education Requirements* [CR]; and (d) *Program requirements*.

Standard 10: Educational Policies, Procedures, and Practices – (a) *Policies for awarding credit*; (b) *Evaluating and awarding academic credit*; and (c) *cooperative academic arrangements*.

Standard 14.4: The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all US Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions.