



State Council of  
Higher Education for Virginia

# **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**

Presented by:

Dr. Linda Birtley (VCU)

Dr. Susan Bosworth (CWM)

# SACSCOC

---

- Institution Review – Time and Location
  - Two tracks based on highest degree offered
  - Full reaffirmation review every 10 years
    - ✓ Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee review,
    - ✓ On-Site Reaffirmation Committee review, and
    - ✓ Off-site instructional sites visited (where 50% or more of a program is offered)
  - Interim review at 5-year midpoint
    - ✓ Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee review, and
    - ✓ Off-site instructional sites visited if initiated since 10-year reaffirmation and 50% or more of a program is offered

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Institution Review – Time and Location (con't)

Tenth year reaffirmation includes three primary submissions

- Institutional Summary Form: a multi-part description of the institution
- Compliance Certification: a rigorous self-study, with supporting evidence
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): a separate, detailed action plan to improve student learning or student learning environment. (The 5<sup>th</sup> year review requires a QEP Impact Report.)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Institution Review – Time and Location (con't)

Tenth year reaffirmation includes three supplemental submissions, if needed

- Focused Report: a response to Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee's questions
- Response to On-Site Reaffirmation Committee: a response to visiting committee's recommendations
- Monitoring Report: a detailed narrative and evidence that demonstrates institution's progress in moving from non-compliance to compliance on any cited principle

# SACSCOC

- Principles – institutions must demonstrate compliance with principles in three major sections, each of which covers multiple areas.

## Compliance Certification Sections

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of Principles*</u>
Core Requirements (CR)	16
Comprehensive Standards (CS)	70
Federal Requirements (FR)	11
Total	97

\*This count includes all parts of all principles that require separate narrative, evidence, and review for compliance. Principle of integrity is not included.

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Principles (con't)

### Content Areas Addressed in Sections

<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Number of Principles</u>
Integrity*	1
Governance	22
Financial Resources	6
Physical Resources	4
Library / Learning Resources	4

\*The principle of Integrity is fundamental and establishes the relationship between the SACSCOC and the member institution. It is a separate document signed by the institution's president and its SACSCOC liaison.

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Principles (con't)

### Content Areas Addressed in Sections

<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Number of Principles</u>
Institutional Effectiveness	7
All Educational Programs	20
Undergraduate	5
Graduate & Professional	4
Faculty	6

# SACSCOC

## ➤ Principles (con't)

### Content Areas Addressed in Sections

<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Number of Principles</u>
Distance (Online) Education	3
Student Affairs & Services	5
Quality Enhancement Plan*	2
Substantive Change & Policies	9
Total	98

\*CR 2.12 and CS 3.3.2, both of which pertain to the QEP are submitted as a single separate document for the 10<sup>th</sup> year reaffirmation. A QEP Impact Report is submitted in the 5<sup>th</sup> year.



# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Policies and Compliance

### Policies

40 policies - key 12 of special significance\*

- Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards: Policy and Procedures
- Closing a Program, Site, Branch or Institution
- Complaints against the Commission or Its Accredited Institutions
- Developing Policy and Procedures Documents
- Integrity and Accuracy in Institutional Representation
- Mergers, Consolidations, Change of Ownership, Acquisitions, and Change of Governance

\*See: <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Resource%20Manual.pdf> page 139



# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Policies and Compliance (con't)

### Policies

40 policies – key 12 of special significance\*

- The Quality and Integrity of Undergraduate Degrees
- Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership
- Separate Accreditation for Units of a Member Institution
- Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions
- Third-Party Comments
- Unreported Substantive Change

\*See: <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Resource%20Manual.pdf> page 139



# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Policies and Compliance (con't)

### Compliance

- Off-Site Review Committee reviews Compliance Certification and identifies those principles for which the institution has not made a case for compliance.
- For each principle identified by the Off-Site Committee, the institution provides additional evidence of compliance in a Focused Report.

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Policies and Compliance (con't)

### Compliance

- On-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviews Focused Report, and examines evidence and conducts interviews on campus(es) to make determination on compliance for
  1. Unresolved compliance issues
  2. All Federal Requirements - must confirm on campus(es)
  3. Quality Enhancement Plan
- For any compliance issues not resolved by On-Site Committee, institution provides additional evidence to support compliance
- SACSCOC Committee on Compliance and Reports reviews all material and recommends action on reaffirmation to Executive Council

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Policies and Compliance (con't)

### Compliance

- Executive Council reviews materials and makes recommendation to the full Board of Trustees
- Board of Trustees makes final decision on accreditation
- Results are announced at SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December with detailed letter sent to institution in January
- Potential results are:
  - Reaffirmation with no further reports required
  - Reaffirmation with monitoring report requested
  - Reaffirmation Denied, Sanction Imposed, Monitoring Report Requested

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Academic Requirements (in depth)

The institution must maintain compliance with principles covering all academic programs:

- Program Length (CR 2.7.1)
- Program Content (CR 2.7.2)
- Coursework for Degrees (CR 2.7.4)
- Student Support Services (CR 2.10)
- Institutional Effectiveness – Educational Programs (3.3.1.1)
- Academic Program Approval (CS 3.4.1)
- Continuing Education, Service Programs (CS 3.4.2)
- Admissions Policies (CS 3.4.3)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Academic Requirements (con't)

The institution must maintain compliance with principles covering all academic programs:

- Acceptance of Academic Credit (CS 3.4.4)
- Academic Policies (CS 3.4.5)
- Practices for Awarding Credit (CS 3.4.6)
- Consortial Relationships/Contractual Agreements (CS 3.4.7)
- Noncredit to Credit (CS 3.4.8)
- Academic Support Services (CS 3.4.9)
- Responsibility for Curriculum (CS 3.4.10)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Academic Requirements (con't)

The institution must maintain compliance with principles covering all academic programs:

- Academic Program Coordination (CS 3.4.11)
- Technology Use (CS 3.4.12)
- Student Achievement (FR 4.1)
- Program Curriculum (FR 4.2)
- Publication of Policies (FR 4.3)
- Program Length (FR 4.4)
- Recruitment Materials (FR 4.6)
- Definition of Credit Hours (FR 4.9)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Academic Requirements (con't)

The institution must maintain compliance with principles covering all undergraduate programs:

- General Education (CR 2.7.3)
- General Education Requirements (CS 3.5.1)
- Institutional Credits for a Degree (CS 3.5.2)
- Undergraduate Program Requirements (CS 3.5.3)
- Terminal Degrees of Faculty (CS 3.5.4)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ Academic Requirements (con't)

The institution must maintain compliance with principles covering all graduate and professional programs:

- Post-Baccalaureate Program Rigor (CS 3.6.1)
- Graduate Curriculum (CS 3.6.2)
- Institutional Credits for a Graduate Degree (CS 3.6.3)
- Post-Baccalaureate Program Requirements (CS 3.6.4)

# SACSCOC

---

## ➤ How Council and SACSCOC Align

### Academic Program Approval:

SCHEV: Academic program actions

SACSCOC: Substantive changes

### Organizational Change Approval:

SCHEV: Organizational changes

SACSCOC: Substantive changes

See Handout - [State Council of Higher Education \(SCHEV\) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACSCOC\)](#)

Questions?

Presented by:  
Dr. Linda Birtley (VCU)  
Dr. Susan Bosworth (CWM)