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

Presented by:
Dr. Linda Birtley (VCU)
Dr. Susan Bosworth (CWM)
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
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 5th year review requires a QEP Impact Report.)
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
Principles – institutions must demonstrate compliance with principles in three major sections, each of which covers multiple areas.

### Compliance Certification Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of Principles*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Requirements (CR)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Standards (CS)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Requirements (FR)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Number of Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrity*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Resources</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library / Learning Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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.
Principles (con’t)

Content Areas Addressed in Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Number of Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Effectiveness</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Educational Programs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate &amp; Professional</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principles (con’t)

Content Areas Addressed in Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Number of Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distance (Online) Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Affairs &amp; Services</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Enhancement Plan*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantive Change &amp; Policies</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>98</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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.
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
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
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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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:
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