Special Report on SACSCOC Differentiated Review Process

All institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) are required to undergo a review for reaffirmation of accreditation every ten (10) years. After being granted initial accreditation, new member institutions will be reviewed for reaffirmation of accreditation after five (5) years, then every ten (10) years thereafter. While maintaining the rigor associated with the reaffirmation of accreditation process, member institutions may participate in a Differentiated Review Process if they meet eligibility requirements. The Differentiated Review process requires institutions to complete a modified compliance certification document, consisting of 40 Core Requirements and Standards. The reaffirmation review occurs in accordance with procedures outlined in pertinent SACSCOC documents including handbooks and other policies (see the Principles of Accreditation and the “Handbook for Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation of Accreditation”).

The differentiaided review process will include compiling and submitting a modified Compliance Certification, documenting compliance with the Principles of Accreditation, and submitting a Quality Enhancement Plan for review by evaluation committees. The Differentiated Review Process includes off-site and on-site reviews and institutions document fewer Principles of Accreditation standards during the initial process (institutions may need to address additional standards based on reports or supplemental information discovered). Institutions may not participate in the Differentiated Review process for two consecutive decennial reaffirmation of accreditation processes.

According to SACSCOC, the following standards are part of the modified compliance certification document, consisting of 40 Core Requirements and Standards. This information was retrieved from: https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2020/01/Differentiated-Review.pdf

1.1* (Integrity)          4.2.d (Conflict of interest)
2.1 (Institutional mission) 4.2.f (External influence)
4.1 (Governing board characteristics) 4.2.g (Board self-evaluation)
4.3 (Multi-level governance - if applicable)  
5.1 (Chief executive officer)  
5.2a (CEO control)  
5.2b (Control of intercollegiate athletics)  
5.2c (Control of fund-raising activities)  
5.4* (Qualified administrative/academic officers)  
6.1* (Full-time faculty)  
6.2.a (Faculty qualifications - new faculty hired since last reaffirmation)  
6.2.b* (Program faculty)  
6.2.c* (Program coordination)  
7.1 (Institutional planning)  
7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan)  
8.1* (Student achievement)  
8.2.a* (Student outcomes: educational programs)  
9.1* (Program outcomes)  
9.2* (Program length)  
9.3a-c* (General education requirements)  
10.2* (Public information)  
10.5* (Admissions policies and practices)  
10.6* (Distance and correspondence education)  
10.7* (Policies for awarding credit)  
11.1 (Library and learning/information resources)  
12.1* (Student support services)  
12.4* (Student complaints)  
12.6 (Student debt)  
13.1 (Financial resources)  
13.2 a-c (Financial documents)  
13.3 (Financial responsibility)  
13.6* (Federal and state responsibilities)  
13.7* (Physical resources)  
14.1* (Publication of accreditation status)  
14.3* (Comprehensive institutional review)  
14.4* (Representation to other agencies)  
14.5 (Policy compliance)  

*Denotes federal requirements that must be addressed in the modified Compliance Certification document.

**Important Deadline Dates to File Differentiated Review Intention**

SACSCOC has published several important deadline dates for Track A and Track B institutions ([https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2020/04/Differentiated-Review-Process-Timeline-Class-of-2023.pdf](https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2020/04/Differentiated-Review-Process-Timeline-Class-of-2023.pdf)). Unfortunately, these dates are only available for institutions with 2023 or 2024 reaffirmation years. OPA will continue to monitor the SACSCOC website for relevant 2025 deadlines.

**Differentiated Review Verification Form**

Interestingly, if institutions wish to participate in Differentiated Review, they must complete a verification form (see page 3). The verification form asks questions specific to executive leadership, enrollment changes, governing board issues, and programmatic, professional, and/or athletic accreditation sanctions.
Differentiated Review Verification Form

All sections of this form must be completed.

Institution:
Reaffirmation Class:
Institution Track:

Institution CEO Name:
Institution CEO Telephone Number:
Institution CEO Email Address:

Institution Accreditation Liaison Name:
Institution Accreditation Liaison Telephone Number:
Institution Accreditation Liaison Email Address:

Has the institution experienced a change in the CEO position in the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015)?
Yes
No

If yes, provide a clear statement of the nature and purpose of the change.

Has the institution experienced a significant (20% or more) increase/decrease in enrollment over the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015)?
Yes
No

If yes, provide a clear statement of the nature of the enrollment changes for the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015).
Has the institution experienced issues with board/administrative distinction in the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015)?
Yes
No
If yes, provide a clear statement of the nature of the issues with board/administrative distinction which occurred in the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015).

Has the institution been placed on sanction from a programmatic, professional or national athletic association or accreditor in the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015)?
Yes
No
If yes, provide a clear statement which includes the accreditor, sanction, and year of sanction which occurred in the past five (5) years (since July 1, 2015).

By signing below, we attest that ____________________ (name of institution) has conducted an honest assessment of compliance and has provided complete and accurate disclosure of timely information regarding compliance with the identified Standards of the Principles of Accreditation.

Date of Submission: ___________________

Accreditation Liaison

Name of Accreditation Liaison

________________________________

Signature

____________________________________________________________________

Chief Executive Officer

Name of Chief Executive Officer

________________________________

Signature

____________________________________________________________________