



Preparing for a Successful Reaffirmation Experience

SACS IS COMING!

UPDATE 2/2011

What is SACS? <http://sacscoc.org/>

*Southern Association of Colleges & Schools
Commission on Colleges*

- SACS is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the southern states.



Why do we need SACs?

- Serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices (11 states)
- Enhance quality of services & programs offered (impact student learning)
- Title IV Funding = Financial Aid



How do we maintain accreditation?

- Principles of Accreditation – consistent guidelines (34 standards)
- Reports – Compliance , QEP, 5th Year Interim
- Communication – changes w/ institution



Timeline of Events

- ✓ January 31, 2011 – Orientation of Leadership Team
- March 15, 2012 – Compliance Certification Due
- May 7, 2012 – Off-Site Peer Review
- June 1, 2012 - Quality Enhancement Plan Due
- August 20, 2012 – Focused Report Due
- October 2-4, 2012 - On-Site Peer Review
- June 2013 – Review by Commission on Colleges
- July 2013 – Receive Letter Regarding Reaffirmation Status

Compliance Certification

Due March 15, 2012



- Submitted 15 months in advance of an institution's scheduled reaffirmation
- Judgment to the extent the College is in compliance with the Core, Comprehensive and Federal Requirements
- Document prepared by institution and signed by the President and Accreditation Liaison

Off-Site Peer Review

May 7, 2012




The committee:

- Meets in Atlanta to review a group of Compliance Reports (cluster)
- Prepares a report determining initial judgment of compliance
- Forwards the report to the On-Site Committee



Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Due June 1, 2012

- Submitted 4-6 weeks in advance of the on-site review
 - Includes:
 - Broad-based institutional process
 - Focuses on learning outcomes/environment fostering learning outcomes
 - Demonstrates institutional capability for implementing proposed plan
 - Identifies goals and assesses their achievement
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Focused Report

Due August 20, 2012

- Opportunity for Institution to respond to off-site reviewers questions



On-Site Peer Review

October 2-4, 2012



- Focused evaluation (on campus) to finalize issues of compliance
- Provides consultation regarding issues addressed in the QEP
- Evaluates the acceptability of the QEP
- Completes the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee
- Report, w/college's response, is forwarded to the Commission on Colleges

Review by the Commission on Colleges

June 2013

- The Committee on Compliance & Reports (C&R) reviews report and college response
- Forwards comprehensive report to the Executive Council (COC) for review
- Executive Council recommends action to the Commission who in turn makes the final decision on reaffirmation



Letter of Reaffirmation Status

July 2013



Discussion

