

United States Higher Education Accreditation

- Collegial process of self-review and peer review
- Improvement of academic quality and public accountability for institutions and programs
- Recognition the scrutiny of the quality of accrediting organizations



United States Department of Education

The federal government, through the U.S. Department of Education, conducts governmental recognition reviews.







Regional Accreditation Agencies in the United States

- Middle States
 - 5 states, Washington D.C.,2 territories
 - 527 Accredited Institutions
- North Central
 - 19 states
 - 1007 Accredited Institutions
- Northwest
 - 7 states
 - 163 Accredited Institutions

- New England
 - 6 states
 - 241 Accredited Institutions
- > Southern
 - 11 states
 - 802 Accredited Institutions
- Western
 - 2 states, 7 territories
 - 300 Accredited Institutions



Regional Accreditation Agencies in the United States





SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation

- Compliance Report with Documentation
- ➤ Quality Enhancement Plan



SACSCOC Accreditation Approach

- > SACSCOC does require:
 - Cogent and well-written argument/line of reasoning for compliance
 - ✓ Based on professional judgment
 - ✓ Demonstrated and validated through documentation
- > SACSCOC does not require:
 - A specific institutional practice or approach
 - Compliance with a mandatory checklist
 - A prescribed committee process



Principles of Accreditation

96 different issues that have to be addressed with documented proof of compliance, separated into four categories:

- > Principle of Integrity
- Core Requirements (CR)
- ➤ Comprehensive Standards (CS)
- Federal Requirements (FR)



Core Requirements

- ➤ Broad-Based Foundational Requirements
- Must be in compliance with all in order to maintain accreditation in good standing



Divided into four areas:

- I. Institutional Mission, Governance, and Effectiveness
- II. Educational Programs
- III. Resources
- IV. Institutional Responsibility for Commission Policies



Federal Requirements

Criteria outlined in Federal Regulations developed by the Department of Education



Principle of Integrity

1.1 The institution operates with integrity in all matters.



Core Requirements

- **2.1** The institution has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.
- 2.2 The institution has a governing board of at least five members that is the legal body with specific authority over the institution. The board is an active policy-making body for the institution and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are adequate to provide a sound educational program. The board is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from it. Both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.



Core Requirements

- **2.3** The institution has a chief executive officer whose primary responsibility is to the institution and who is not the presiding officer of the board.
- **2.5** The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that (1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission.



- **3.1.1** The mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the institution's operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by the governing board, and is communicated to the institution's constituencies.
- **3.2.1** The governing board of the institution is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer.
- **3.2.2** The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure:
 - **3.2.2.1** institution's mission;
 - 3.2.2.2 fiscal stability of the institution; and
 - 3.2.2.3 institutional policy.



- **3.2.3** The governing board has a policy addressing conflict of interest for its members.
- **3.2.4** The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies, and protects the institution from such influence.
- **3.2.5** The governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.
- **3.2.6** There is a clear and appropriate distinction, in writing and practice, between the policy-making functions of the governing board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.



- **3.2.7** The institution has a clearly defined and published organizational structure that delineates responsibility for the administration of policies.
- **3.2.11** The institution's chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over, the institution's intercollegiate athletics programs.
- **3.2.12** The institution's chief executive officer controls the institution's fund-raising activities.

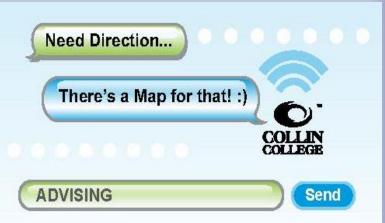


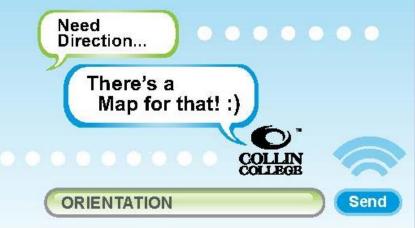
- **3.3.1** The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas:
 - **3.3.1.1** Educational programs, to include student learning
- **3.3.2** The institution has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that (1) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP; (2) includes broadbased involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and (3) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement.



Quality Enhancement Plan









3.7.1 The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, an institution gives primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards, continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty.

- **3.7.5** The institution publishes policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in academic and governance matters.
- **3.13.1** The institution complies with the policies of the Commission on Colleges.





OFFICE OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH (OTR)

Top Ten Most Frequently Cited Principles in Reaffirmation Reviews: 2011 and 2012 Classes
(Preliminary Data)

	Off-Site Review (N=157)	
Rank	Requirement/Standard	% of Institutions Receiving Citations of Non- Compliance
1.	CS 3.7.1 (Faculty Competence)	93.0%
2.	CS 3.3.1.1 (IE - Educational Programs)	65.6%
3.	CR 2.11.1 (Financial Resources)	55.4%
4.	CS 3.3.1.3 (IE - Educational Support)	54.8%
5.	CS 3.3.1.2 (IE - Administrative Units)	54.6%
6.	CS 3.3.1.5 (IE - Community/Public Service)	53.5%
7.	CS 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies)	52.9%
8. 9.	CR 2.8 (Faculty) CS 3.4.11 (Academic Program Coordination)	47.8%
10.	CS 3.7.2 (Faculty Evaluation)	44.6%





OFFICE OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH (OTR)

Top Ten Most Frequently Cited Principles in Reaffirmation Reviews: 2011 and 2012 Classes
(Preliminary Data)

	On-Site Review (N=156*)	
Rank	Requirement/Standard	% of Institutions Receiving Citations of Non- Compliance
1.	CS 3.3.2 (QEP)	66.7%
2.	CS 3.3.1.1 (IE - Educational Programs)	42.9%
3.	CS 3.7.1 (Faculty Competence)	41.0%
4.	CS 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies)	27.6%
5.	CS 3.3.1.3 (IE - Educational Support)	23.1%
6.	CS 3.3.1.5 (IE - Community/Public Service)	22.4%
7.	CS 3.3.1.2 (IE – Administrative Units)	21.8%
8.	CS 3.5.4 (Terminal Degrees of Faculty)	10.9%
9.	CS 3.10.4 (Control of Finances)	10.3%
10.	CS 3.10.1 (Financial Stability)	9.6%



Reaffirmation of Accreditation Timeline	2011-2012							.2					
	AUC	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Open an electronic means to accept QEP ideas (Wiki site, SNAP survey, email account)													
Departmental Meetings – Discuss areas for improvement in student learning outcomes as potential QEP focus topics													
Submit departmental recommendations for QEP topics and close electronic means of gathering QEP ideas													
Establish QEP Advisory Committee to oversee the process through topic selection													
Whitepaper development for each topic - overseen by QEP Advisory Committee													
Produce style guide													
Set up document library													
Distribute materials to responsible parties - Wednesday, May 9, 2pm													
Sub-committee Training													
Institute for Quality Enhancement and Assessment - Atlanta - July 29-Aug 1													

Completed

QEP Tasks

Compliance Certification Tasks



	A IIIICIIIIC											
	2012-2013											
	AU	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN .	JUL
Whitepaper presentations/discussions												
Request a visit from Barry Goldstein for fall of 2013												
Faculty and staff SACS education and training as needed (on-going)												
QEP Advisory Committee rate topics generated using SACS criteria*												
Leadership Team reviews topics												
QEP Advisory Committee announces 1-5 potential topic(s)												
Open recommendations/voting for QEP topic complete												
Team to SACS Annual conference - Dallas - Dec 8-11												
Topic reviewed/recommended by Leadership Team												
Steering committee to Atlanta (1 day training)												
Board of Trustees reviews/approves QEP topic												
New QEP Team appointed with representation aligned with selected topic,												
including faculty												
QEP Team conducts research for quality enhancement plan												
Begin collecting Draft #1 of Compliance Certification narratives												
Begin reviewing Draft #1 of Compliance Certification narratives												
Develop QEP mission, goals and outcomes												
Begin collecting Draft #2 Compliance Certification narratives												
Institute for Quality Enhancement and Assessment - Daytona Beach - July 21-24												
*SACS criteria: focus on student learning and justified use for OFP (data-driven and significant challeng	e focus	ed on	stude	nt lear	ning).	inctit	utiona	l canah	ility fo	r the ir	itiatio	\n

^{*}SACS criteria: focus on student learning and justified use for QEP (data-driven and significant challenge focused on student learning); institutional capability for the initiation and continuation of the plan (leadership & resources), the institution has the means for determining the success of the plan (Assessment); all aspects of the college community were involved in development of plan.

Completed

COLLIN

QEP Tasks

Compliance Certification Tasks

Paraffirmation of Accreditation Timeline(cont.)		AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL												
Reaffirmation of Accreditation Timeline(cont.)	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL		
Review Draft #2 of Compliance Certification narratives														
Begin sending Compliance Certification narratives to outside readers														
Determine recommended activities to address QEP Student Learning Outcomes														
Begin writing Literature Review for QEP														
Develop Assessment Plan														
Send draft of specific Compliance Certificate narratives to Barry Goldstein														
QEP Team presents QEP project plan to Leadership Team														
QEP update to Board of Trustees														
Team to Annual Conference - Atlanta - Dec 7-10														
Visit by Barry Goldstein - Dec 2-3														
Compliance Certification Draft #3 due (with changes recommended by Goldstein and outside														
readers)														
Compliance Cert Team review of draft														
Compliance Certification sent to editors														
Implementation of mini-pilots														
Campaign by QEP Team to educate the college community about the QEP														
Choose candidates for QEP lead evaluator														
Compliance Certification due from editors														
Compliance Cert Team review of draft														
Compliance Certification document sent to print March 1														
Compliance Certification due														
Begin writing QEP draft														
Finalize and confirm QEP lead evaluator														
QEP draft submitted to Leadership Team for final approval														
Write Focus Report														
QEP feedback from Leadership Team draft finalized														
Identify QEP Implementation Team														
Institute for Quality Enhancement and Assessment - New Orleans - July 20-23														

COLLIN COLLEGE

Completed

QEP Tasks

Compliance Certification Tasks

	2014-2015												
	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Submission of QEP to SACSCOC (six weeks prior to on-site visit)													
Implement QEP													
Continue campaign to educate college community about QEP													
Visit Oct 28-30													
Team to annual conference - Nashville - Dec 6-9													

	2015-2020											
	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
QEP Implementation Team oversees implementation and revises												
QEP based on data analysis												

Completed QEP Tasks Compliance Certification Tasks



For More Information

http://inside.collin.edu/tl/Compliance.html

www.sacscoc.org



