Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

DIFFERENTIATED REVIEW PROCESS

Policy Statement

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 are 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 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 differentiated review process will include compiling and submitting a ***modified*** Compliance Certification, and documenting compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. The Differentiated Review Process includes off-site and on-site reviews, and institutions document fewer of *the 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.

Procedures

Eligibility Process

In accordance with the "Time Line for Institutional Responses to the Reports of Visiting Committees" section of the SACSCOC *Deadlines for Reports and Profiles* policy, institutions within the reaffirmation class (Tracks A & B) approaching the reaffirmation of accreditation process may apply to participate in the Differentiated Review Process. SACSCOC staff will identify member institutions that meet the initial eligibility criteria.

Eligibility Criteria

Institutions must demonstrate the following eligibility criteria to participate in the Differentiated Review Process:

- Has been accredited by SACSCOC for at least ten (10) years.
- Has not been placed on sanction (Warning, Probation, or Probation for Good Cause) by SACSCOC within the last five (5) years.
- Has not submitted a SACSCOC Monitoring Report within the last five (5) years.

Eligibility to participate in this process may be rescinded if the institution no longer meets the eligibility criteria.

The eligibility committee may consider additional conditions that may prevent an institution from participating in a differentiated review to include, the institution:

- Has not experienced any of the following in the last five (5) years:
    - Constant change in institutional CEO position.
    - Significant *(20% or more)* increase/decrease in enrollment over the last five (5) years.
    - Has not demonstrated issues with board/administrative distinction.
- Has not been placed on sanction from a programmatic, professional or national athletic association or accreditor.
- Has not experienced monitoring for its institutional finances in the last five (5) years.
- Has not had a significant number of substantive changes within the last five (5) years.
    - An example of "significant number of substantive changes" occurs if the number of new instructional sites exceeds the mean number of such new sites for the reaffirmation class and represents more than a 50% increase for the institution in the last five (5) years.

An eligibility review committee will consider the eligible institutions' responses to the aforementioned eligibility criteria and recommend their participation to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will confirm an institution's eligibility to participate in the Differentiated Review Process. Institutions will receive written notification of eligibility and must affirm their participation to the SACSCOC President, in writing. Institutions may not appeal the Executive Council's decision.

Modified Compliance Certification Document

All SACSCOC member institutions that meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria are approved to engage in the Differentiated Review Process. Participants must complete the Board approved *Compliance Certification for Differentiated Review*.

NOTE: Institutions are expected to maintain compliance with all standards in *the Principles of Accreditation*. If an institution's response reveals noncompliance with other standards than those included in the *Compliance Certification for Differentiated Review*, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will request submission of a Monitoring Report to demonstrate compliance with the cited standards. The maximum period for monitoring is two years. Thereafter, an institution would be required to meet the provisions of Good Cause and be placed on Probation to be continued in accredited status for a maximum addition of two years.

Future Reviews

Institutions that meet the eligibility requirements and participate in the Differentiated Review Process may ***not*** participate in the Differentiated Review Process for the institution's next decennial reaffirmation of accreditation.

Document History
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