Stephen F. Austin State University
SACSCOC Accreditation Reaffirmation

Decisive Effort

January 2019 – September 7, 2020

Writing Teams Formed
Collect Evidence
Write Compliance Certification Report (CCR)
Mock Off-Site Review
Submit CCR
SACSCOC Off-Site Review
Focused Report(s) Prepared
Focused Report(s) Submitted

Sep 8, 2020
Nov 3-6, 2020
Nov-Feb, 2021
Feb 8, 2021

On-Site Committee Report

QEP Developed
Feb 2019
Feb 2021

Quality Enhancement Topic (QEP) Selection

Feb 8, 2021
March 29 – April 1, 2021
TBD, 2021
TBD, 2021
Dec 4-7, 2021
Dec 10-24, 2021

On-Site Committee Visit
On-Site Response Prepared (if Required)
On-Site Response Report Submitted
SACSCOC Committee on Compliance and Reports Review
SACSCOC Board of Trustees Review
Decision Letter from SACSCOC Trustees

As of 1/21/2019
Every ten years SFA prepares a comprehensive Compliance Certification Report (CCR) providing evidence we are in compliance with all of the SACSCOC accrediting standards, policies, and procedures. Off-site peer reviewers drawn from similar institutions in the SACSCOC region read our report and indicate any standards they determine need more evidence of compliance. SFA prepares a Focused Report to address those standards in more detail, as well as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) prior to an on-site visit. Another peer review team reads both reports and visits the campus to meet with various campus constituents before making a recommendation regarding our compliance with the standards. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees considers that recommendation and ultimately determines our continued accreditation. Five years after reaffirmation of accreditation, we submit a Five-Year Interim Report of compliance with selected accrediting standards plus a QEP impact report. Other annual profile reports are also submitted to SACSCOC along with data on Student Outcomes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>CCR</td>
<td>Compliance Certification Report</td>
<td>The report and supporting evidentiary documentation attesting to the extent of compliance with each of the Principles of Accreditation. The CCR is a collective effort that starts with the university president and leadership team and extends to all academic and administrative units.</td>
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<td>Focus Report</td>
<td>An optional report that provides updated or additional documentation in response to a judgment by the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee regarding requirements or standards with which the committee found the institution to be in non-compliance or which the committee did not review. The Focused Report is prepared for the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee.</td>
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<td>Off-Site Committee Review</td>
<td>The off-site committee determines the extent of the institution’s compliance with each of the SACSCOC Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Regulations as presented in the Principles of Accreditation. This committee makes observations about the information the institution provides and determines the institution’s compliance with standards. Their observations and findings are presented to the institution and the on-site committee.</td>
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<td>On-Site Committee Visit</td>
<td>SACSCOC sends a committee of peers to the campus to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the institution. During the three-day visit, the committee examines data and conduct interviews to evaluate the soundness of the QEP and determines whether the institution is in compliance with the accreditation standards. The committee offers written advice to the institution, develops a consensus on its findings, and completes a draft report. Finally, the committee presents an oral summary in an exit report to the chief executive officer and invited institutional officials on the last day of the visit. The written report of the committee helps the institution improve its programs, refine its QEP, and also provides the basis on which the Commission decides to grant, continue, reaffirm, or withdraw accreditation.</td>
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<td>On-Site Response Report</td>
<td>Institutions that received one or more recommendations in the Report of the On-Site Committee must submit a Response Report addressing any recommendations.</td>
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<td>QEP</td>
<td>Quality Enhancement Plan</td>
<td>The QEP is a document developed by the institution that (1) has a topic identified through ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes, (2) focuses on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success, (3) commits resources to initiate, implement, and complete the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies, and (5) includes a plan to assess achievement.</td>
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<td>SACSCOC Liaison</td>
<td>The SACSCOC Liaison is a senior faculty member or administrator who reports directly to the chief executive officer and has a suitable degree of visibility on campus. The liaison ensures that compliance with accreditation requirements is incorporated into the planning and evaluation process of the institution and notifies the Commission in advance of substantive changes and program developments in accord with the substantive change policies of the commission.</td>
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<td>SACSCOC</td>
<td>Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges</td>
<td>One of the six regional accreditation organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. This agency accredits over 13,000 public and private educational institutions.</td>
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