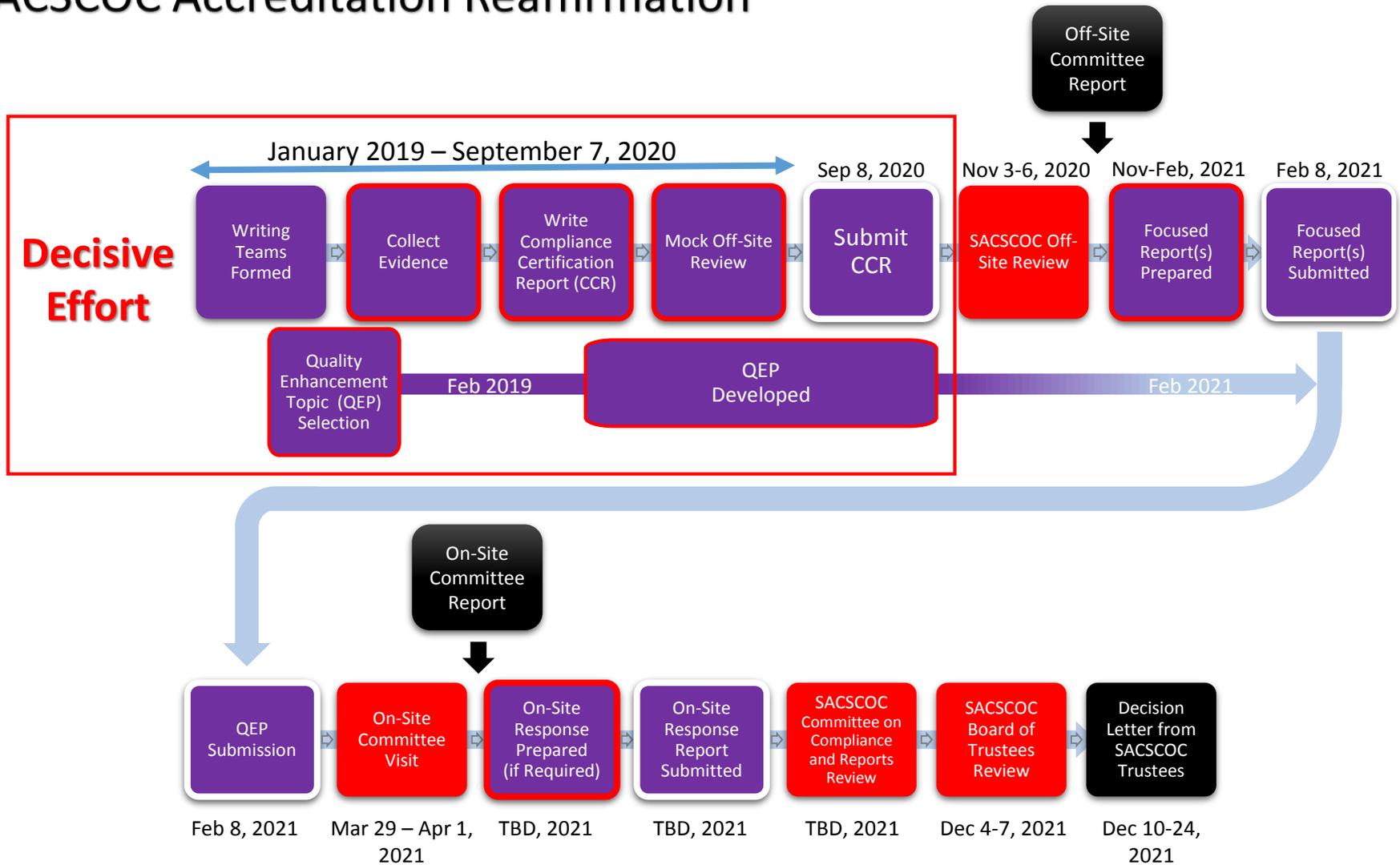


Stephen F. Austin State University SACSCOC Accreditation Reaffirmation



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.

Abbreviation	Name	Definition
	Collect Evidence	After the institution is satisfied that it understands each standard, it is ready to identify documentation of compliance to be submitted for each. Most of this documentation should already exist and simply needs to be located. Evidence includes available records, documents, databases, policy manuals, curriculum files, assessment records, committee minutes, board of regents minutes, strategic planning documents, reports to external audiences, case studies, and other sources of information relevant to assessing compliance with the requirements and standards.
CCR	Compliance Certification Report	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.
	Focus Report	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.
	Off-Site Committee Review	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.
	On-Site Committee Visit	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.
	On-Site Response Report	Institutions that received one or more recommendations in the Report of the On-Site Committee must submit a Response Report addressing any recommendations.
QEP	Quality Enhancement Plan	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.
	SACSCOC Liaison	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.
SACSCOC	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges	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.