



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

INTERPRETATIONS TO THE *PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION*

Interpretation on Standard 6.2.a (*Faculty qualifications*)

Introduction

Standard 6.2.a reads:

For each of its educational programs, the institution justifies and documents the qualifications of its faculty members.
(*Faculty qualifications*)

Interpretation

As with all SACSCOC standards, member institutions are expected to maintain ongoing compliance with this standard. Institutions seeking reaffirmation of accreditation must report faculty qualifications for all faculty members teaching courses for the two most recent academic terms. For the Compliance Certification as part of the reaffirmation process, a Track A institution (offering only undergraduate degrees) should submit rosters for fall term of the current academic year and spring term of the previous academic year. A Track B institution (offering graduate degrees) should submit rosters for fall and spring term of the previous academic year.

Institutions have the option of presenting faculty qualifications either by using the Faculty Roster Form (or appropriate facsimile), or by using a combination of the Faculty Roster Form along with the Faculty from Prior Review Form. Continuing faculty members whose qualifications have already undergone peer review and were considered to be qualified at that time, and who are teaching courses with the same content and at the same level as taught at the time of the prior comprehensive review (i.e., initial accreditation visit or reaffirmation visit), can be listed by discipline and title, using the [Faculty from Prior Review Form](#). For all other faculty, institutions should use the [Faculty Roster Form](#), or an appropriate facsimile, to justify qualifications. These forms can be found under [Institutional Resources](#) on the SACSCOC website, along with the [General Instructions for Completing the Faculty Roster](#).

Information requested on the Faculty Roster Form should be provided for all full-time and part-time faculty teaching credit courses that can be part of a degree, certificate, diploma, or other credential (i.e., are shown on the transcript as the institution's own courses). Faculty teaching developmental/remedial courses should also be included. Teaching assistants should be included only if they are the instructor of record. In some cases, instructors should be included even if they are not employees of the institution (e.g., high school dual-credit programs, ROTC faculty, some international faculty, or faculty teaching courses in a statewide online consortium that are transcribed as "home" courses). An institution is responsible for identifying the instructor of record; that is, the person who provides direct instruction for the course. This person should be qualified to teach the course.

Transcripts for faculty should be available during on-site reviews (as requested by reviewers); they may be included, but are not required, as part of the documentation provided as part of the Compliance Certification or a substantive change application/prospectus/documentation report. However, sufficient information must be provided in these other processes for reviewers to determine whether faculty are appropriately qualified. If concerns about qualifications of continuing faculty arise during the reaffirmation review, the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee may review the qualifications of additional and/or all faculty members.

Institutions seeking candidacy or initial accreditation must report on all faculty. Units of a SACSCOC accredited institution seeking separate accreditation from the parent institution may utilize the same procedure as an institution undergoing reaffirmation.

Document History

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