CORE REQUIREMENT 2.8 (Faculty)

Guideline

Why a Guideline instead of a Template? This guideline replaces the CR 2.8 Template that was formerly posted on the SACSCOC website. The template focused exclusively on data-driven information regarding the teaching responsibilities of full-time faculty. This guideline appropriately addresses the array of responsibilities assigned to full-time faculty.

CR 2.8 *The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution and to ensure the quality and the integrity of each of its academic programs. Upon application for candidacy, an applicant institution demonstrates that it meets the comprehensive standard for faculty qualifications. (Faculty)*

Rationale. Adequacy of faculty resources is necessary to ensure the quality and integrity of an institution's academic programs in order to support its mission. Moreover, the mission of the institution will govern the type of faculty employed, including the number, distribution, and expected role of full-time faculty in academic and governance matters. The achievement of the institution's mission with respect to teaching, research, and service requires a ***critical mass of full-time, qualified faculty to provide direction and oversight of academic programs***. The number of full-time faculty should be sufficient to fulfill basic faculty functions—curriculum design, development, and evaluation; teaching; identification and assessment of appropriate student learning outcomes; student advising; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and institutional and professional service. Consequently, an institution relies on full-time faculty engagement in all aspects of the academic program; its quality and integrity are not driven solely by the number of hours that full-time faculty are teaching.

Expectation. CR 2.8 expects an institution to (1) define full-time and part-time faculty; (2) define faculty oversight of its academic programs (beyond just broad areas such as *social sciences or humanities, or broad degree categories such as Associate in Arts or Bachelor of Science*) and academic processes; (3) describe the distribution/disaggregation of full-time and part-time faculty by academic program; (4) identify the expected role, responsibilities, and functions of full-time faculty charged to support and ensure the quality and integrity of each academic program, while also referencing work overloads; and (5) provide persuasive evidence that the number of full-time faculty in each academic program is adequate to fulfill those responsibilities. Institutions committing such evidence to tables should use institutionally-generated tables/charts as appropriate in lieu of those formerly provided by SACSCOC.