



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

POLICIES, GUIDELINES, GOOD PRACTICES, AND POSITION STATEMENTS: DEFINITIONS FOR ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

Policy Statement

Commission Policies

A policy is a required course of action to be followed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges or its member or candidate institutions. Commission policies may also include procedures, which are likewise a required course of action to be followed by the Commission on Colleges or its member or candidate institutions. The *Principles of Accreditation* requires that an institution comply with the policies and procedures of the Commission. Policies are approved by vote of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. At its discretion, the Board may choose to forward a policy to the College Delegate Assembly for approval.

Commission Guidelines

A guideline is an advisory statement designed to assist institutions in fulfilling accreditation requirements. As such, guidelines describe recommended educational practices for documenting requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* and are approved by the Executive Council. The guidelines are examples of commonly accepted practices that constitute compliance with the standard. Depending upon the nature and mission of the institution, however, other approaches may be more appropriate and also provide evidence of compliance.

Commission Good Practices

Good practices are commonly-accepted practices within the higher education community that enhance institutional quality. Good practices may be formulated by outside agencies and organizations and endorsed by the Executive Council or the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

Commission Position Statements

A position statement examines an issue facing the Commission's membership, describes appropriate approaches, and states the Commission's stance on the issue. It is endorsed by the Executive Council or the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

All documents are available on the Commission's Web page (www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp). The Commission maintains currency on the Web and reserves the right to add, modify, or delete any of the documents listed.

Document History

Adopted: Commission on Colleges, June 2003
Updated in accord with the revised Principles: December 2006
Edited: January 2012
Reformatted: August 2014