



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

APPLICATION FOR SACSCOC ACCREDITATION FROM AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED IN ANOTHER REGION

Policy Statement

An institution of higher education **accredited by another regional commission** may apply for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) under certain conditions.

1. The institution must be accredited (not a candidate) and in good standing (that is, not under any formal sanction at the time of the application) with its current regional accrediting commission.
2. During the application process, the institution may not undergo any changes of a substantive nature that the regional change would not necessitate. For instance, the reason for the change of regional accreditors may be due to a change of its parent entity or change of governance or ownership. This would be an appropriate change that would occur during the transfer process; however, an institution offering the master's degree as its highest degree and then initiating doctoral programs would not be appropriate.
3. The institution must be located in and chartered or incorporated within one of the eleven states under the jurisdiction of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. If the institution is part of a system covering more than one accrediting region, the locus of administrative control must be within the geographic jurisdiction of the SACS Commission on Colleges.
4. All management agreements, option agreements, or other contractual agreements with respect to the management and control of the institution, if any, must be in place at the time of submission of the application and included for review in the application.
5. This process applies only to institutions changing accreditation from another **regional accrediting commission** to SACSCOC.

Process for Changing Regional Accrediting Commissions

1. The institution submits a completed application for Change of Regional Accrediting Commissions. The application includes documentation of compliance with all Core Requirements of the Commission, except CR 2.12; Comprehensive Standards 3.3.1, 3.5.1, 3.7.1; all of section 3.10; and Federal Requirements 4.1 – 4.9. In addition, the institution submits (1) a copy of the most recent visiting committee report(s) and action letters(s) from the current regional commission, including the most recent comprehensive review of the institution and any special or focused reports and actions dealing with application and (2) a list of all accreditors and copies of reports from their most recent review.
2. The application and reports are forwarded to Commission staff to ensure that all materials are provided and then to Group A of the Committees on Compliance and Reports. The Committee may authorize an Accreditation Committee visit, request additional information, or reject the application.

3. The Accreditation Committee will conduct an on-site review of the institution to verify the information provided. The Committee will write a report and the institution will have an opportunity to respond to any recommendations in the report.
4. The Accreditation Committee Report and the institution's response will be forwarded to Group A of the Committees on Compliance and Reports. The recommendation of the Committee will be forwarded to the Executive Council and then to the Commission's Board of Trustees for a final decision.
5. The Board of Trustees either grants or denies the change of accreditation to SACSCOC from another regional accrediting commission.
6. If the Commission approves the change of accreditation, the newly-accredited institution will be required to have its accreditation reaffirmed five years after the granting of membership (and every ten years thereafter). For reaffirmation of accreditation, the institution must document compliance with all Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements.
7. There is no provision for candidacy in the process of changing regional accrediting commissions.
8. The institution seeking a change of regional commissions remains accredited under the current home regional accrediting commission until final action on the change is taken.
9. A copy of the letter communicating the Commission's action will also be sent to the previous home regional accrediting commission.
10. The date of the change of accreditation will be set by the Commission. Annual Commission dues will be prorated from that date.
11. An institution may withdraw its application at any time during the review process. Upon doing so, the Commission on Colleges will notify the institution's current regional accrediting commission.
12. All final decisions regarding the accreditation status of an institution are made by SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Denial of the change of accreditation is **not** an appealable action.
13. If an institution is denied change of accreditation, the institution will have a restricted period of time to resubmit using this abbreviated procedure. After that time period has elapsed, the institution must apply using the Commission's process for new applications.

Fees and Expenses

The institution will be required to pay an application fee of \$12,000 for national institutions, or \$17,500 for international institutions, and to assume all expenses incurred by the Accreditation Committee while conducting the work of the Commission.

Document History

Approved: Commission on Colleges, June 2008

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