

# ***Updates from SACSCOC***

***(Tips, Tricks, and Advice from a Recovering IAL and New SACSCOC Vice President)***

***Virginia Regional Accreditation Symposium***  
***May 9, 2022***

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**Vice President**  
**SACSCOC**

# ***Accreditation and SACSCOC***

## **Topics/Outline**

- Review Recent SACSCOC Policy Updates
- Common Non-Compliance Issues  
(Reaffirmation)
- Substantive Change Updates
- Principle Review Committee
- Things I wished Someone told me...or  
someone told me, and I forgot



# ***SACSCOC Policy Updates (and guidelines)***

## **Accreditation Procedures for Applicant Institutions (Policy)**

*“The Commission accepts applications for membership from domestic institutions in the other 39 states, as well as international institutions of higher education around the world.” Notification is required if Institutions DO NOT intend to participate in title IV programs.*

## **Fifth-Year Interim Review Process (Policy)**

*Interim OCIS Committee Visit → Institutions that experience rapid growth of 5 or more new approved Off-Campus Instructional Sites since last reaffirmation are required to host a visit.*

# ***SACSCOC Policy Updates (and guidelines)***

## **Logistics of Committee Visits (Guidelines)**

*Most changes codify current practice, such as guidelines regarding alcoholic beverages. But some other important changes include:*

- (1) Ground transportation to and from airport, as well as during the visit, is the responsibility of the institution. If Committee members wish to rent a car, prior approval from SACSCOC and the institution is required.*
- (2) Gifts & Honoraria – If provided, should not exceed \$50 in value and may be related to institutional advertisement, institutional programs, or the community where the institution is located.*



# ***SACSCOC Policy Updates (and guidelines)***

## **Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review (Policy)**

*SACSCOC continues to move towards electronic upload of institutional materials via the Institutional Portal. In the meantime, reports and materials for review should be submitted as zip files on flash drives.*

## **Transfer of Academic Credit (A Position Statement)**

- (1) Editorial Changes*
- (2) Explicitly recognizes the role of advising in the transfer process—link to 12.1 and the requirement that institutions provide adequate, appropriate, and effective academic and student support services.*
- (3) Compels institutions to evaluate and seek improvements in their services that support transfer*

# ***SACSCOC Policy Updates (and guidelines)***

## **New Policies**

### **Request for a Period of Noncompliance (Policy)**

*While it is expected institutions are compliant with standards all the time, this new policy provides an opportunity for an institution to ask for a period of noncompliance due to certain institutional circumstances.*

*Circumstances that merit consideration include (not an all-inclusive list): (a) Natural disaster or other catastrophic event, (b) Accepting students from another institution that is implementing a teach-out or closing, (c) significant or documented local or national economic changes, normal application of the agency's standards creates an undue hardship on students, ... etc.*

**Look for more clarification on the process after the June Board meeting**



# ***SACSCOC Policy Updates (and guidelines)***

## **New Policies**

### **Title IV Program Responsibilities (Policy)**

*Outlines the responsibility of institutions to notify SACSCOC in writing if it does not intend to participate in title IV – application phase*

*All candidate and accredited institutions are obligated to verify their participation in title IV programs at the time of review (e.g., Reaffirmation, Fifth-Year Interim, Substantive Changes for Merger/Consolidation/Acquisitions and Level changes.*

**This will be done via the Institutional Summary Form  
(download the most recent form)**

# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

Most Recently Cited Principles: Class of 2021 (N=80)

**Finance Standards**

<3%

**PRELIMINARY DATA SACSCOC OTR**

Review Stage I: OFF-Site Committee		
Rank	Requirement/Standard	% of Institutions in Non-Compliance
1.	6.2.a (Faculty Qualifications)	94%
2.	13.2 (Financial Documents)	46%
3.	8.1 (Student Achievement)	45%
4.	6.3 (Faculty Appointment & Evaluation)	43%
5.	6.2.b (Program Faculty)	41%
6.	8.2.a (Student Outcomes: Ed Programs)	36%
7.	13.7 (Physical Resources)	35%
8.	13.8 (Institutional Environment)	
9.	8.2.b (Student Outcomes: Gen Ed)	34%
10.	12.4 (Student Complaints)	
Selected Descriptive Statistics (Number of Principles Cited Per Institution)		
Mean=13.9 (SD=8.1) Median=12.5 Range=41		
Selected General Areas of Non-Compliance		% of the Total Number of Findings of Non-Compliance
Sections 1-5, 14 (27 standards): Integrity; Mission; Basic Eligibility; Governing Board; Administration & Organization; Transparency & Inst. Representation		23%
Section 6 (7 standards): Faculty		18%
Section 13 (8 standards): Financial and Physical Resources		17%
Sections 9-10 (16 standards): Ed Program Structure & Content; Ed Policies, Procedures, and Practices		15%
Sections 7-8 (6 standards): Institutional Planning & Effectiveness; Student Achievement		14%
Sections 11-12 (9 standards): Library & Learning/ Info Resources; Academic & Student Support Services		13%

Review Stage II: ON-Site Committee		
Rank	Requirement/Standard	% of Institutions in Non-Compliance
1.	7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan)	43%
2.	6.2.a (Faculty Qualifications)	21%
3.	13.3 (Financial Responsibility)	14%
4.	8.2.b (Student Outcomes: Gen Ed)	8%
5.	13.1 (Financial Resources)	
6.	11.2 (Library & LIR Staff)	6%
7.	6.2.b (Program Faculty)	5%
8.	6.2.c (Program Coordination)	
9.	8.2.a (Student Outcomes: Ed Programs)	
<5%		
Selected Descriptive Statistics (Number of Principles Cited Per Institution)		
Mean=1.7 (SD=1.9) Median=1 Range=7		
Selected General Areas of Non-Compliance		% of the Total Number of Findings of Non-Compliance
Sections 7-8 (7 standards): Institutional Planning & Effectiveness; Student Achievement		38%
Section 6 (7 standards): Faculty		21%
Section 13 (8 standards): Financial and Physical Resources		20%
Sections 1-5, 14 (27 standards): Integrity; Mission; Basic Eligibility; Governing Board; Administration & Organization; Transparency & Inst. Representation		10%
Sections 9-10 (16 standards): Ed Program Structure & Content; Ed Policies, Procedures, and Practices		6%
Sections 11-12 (9 standards): Library & Learning/ Info Resources; Academic & Student Support Services		5%

Review Stage III: Board of Trustees		
Rank	Requirement/Standard	% of Institutions in Non-Compliance
1.	13.3 (Financial Responsibility)	10%
2.	8.2.a (Student Outcomes: Ed Programs)	3%
3.	13.1 (Financial Resources)	
4.	13.4 (Control of Finances)	
5.	13.6 (Federal and State Responsibilities)	
Selected Descriptive Statistics (Number of Principles Cited Per Institution)		
Mean=0.3 (SD=0.7) Median=0 Range=4		
Selected General Areas of Non-Compliance		% of the Total Number of Findings of Non-Compliance
Section 13 (8 standards): Financial and Physical Resources		58%
Sections 7-8 (7 standards): Institutional Planning & Effectiveness; Student Achievement		21%
Sections 1-5, 14 (27 standards): Integrity; Mission; Basic Eligibility; Governing Board; Admin. & Org.; Transparency & Inst. Represent		8%
Sections 9-10 (16 standards): Ed Program Structure & Content; Ed Policies, Procedures, & Practices)		8%
Section 6 (7 standards): Faculty		4%
Sections 11-12 (9 standards): Library & Learning/ Info Resources; Academic & Student Support Services		0%

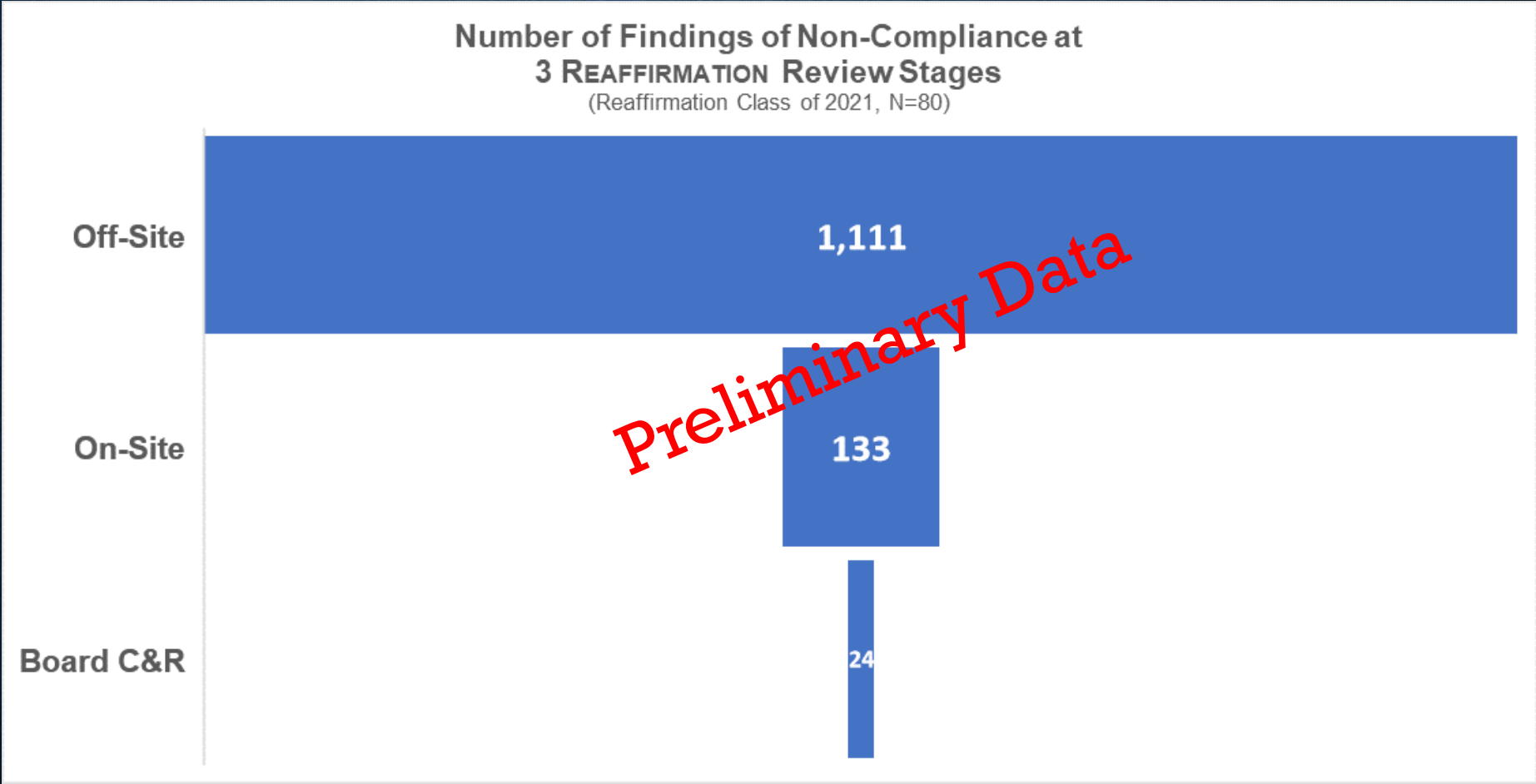
INSTITUTIONAL FOCUSED REPORT

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE REPORT



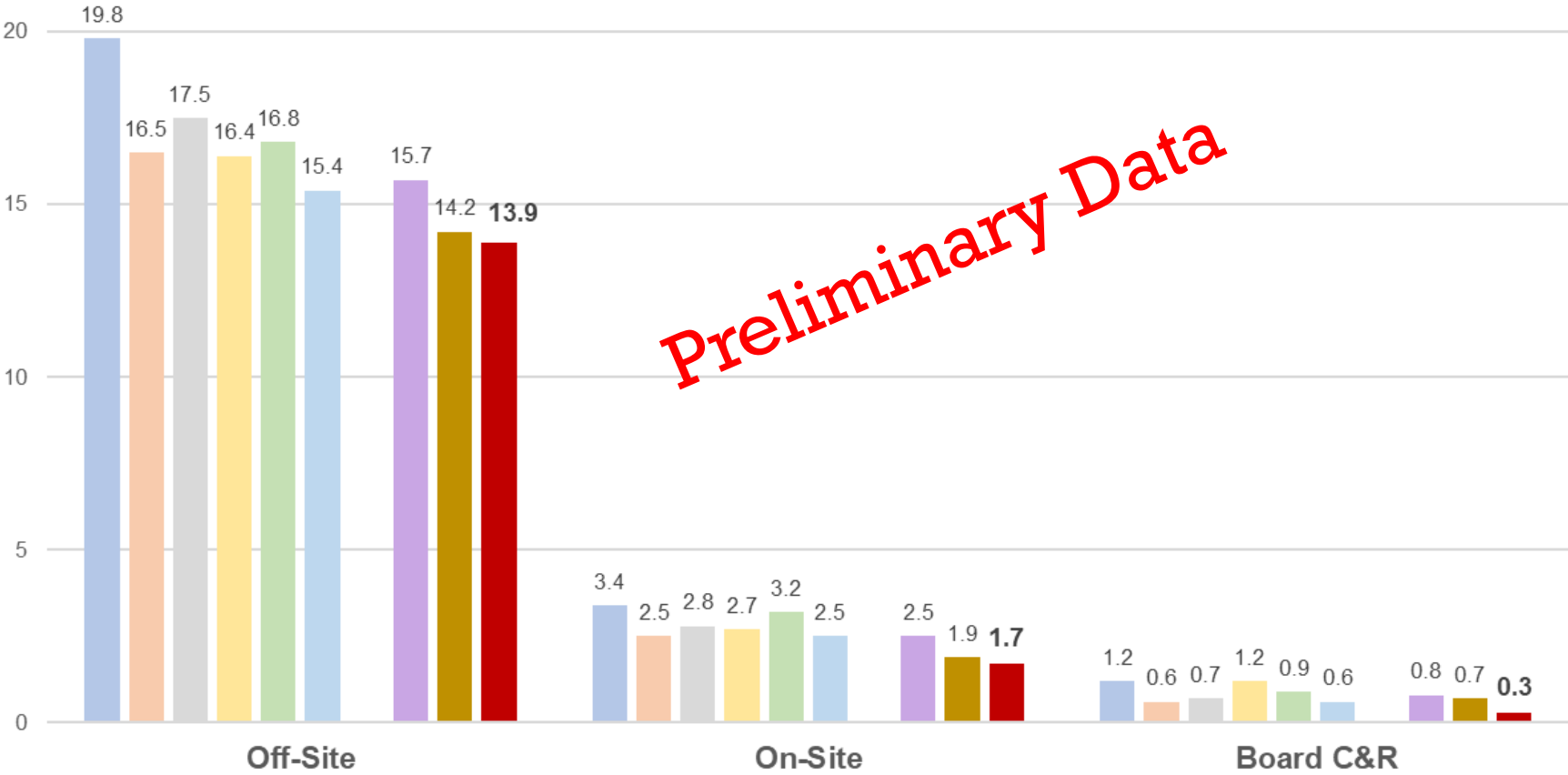
# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

**Number of Findings of Non-Compliance Class of 2021 (N=80)**



# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

Mean (average) Number of Standards Cited for Non-Compliance per Institution  
(Reaffirmation Classes of 2013-2021)



Preliminary Data

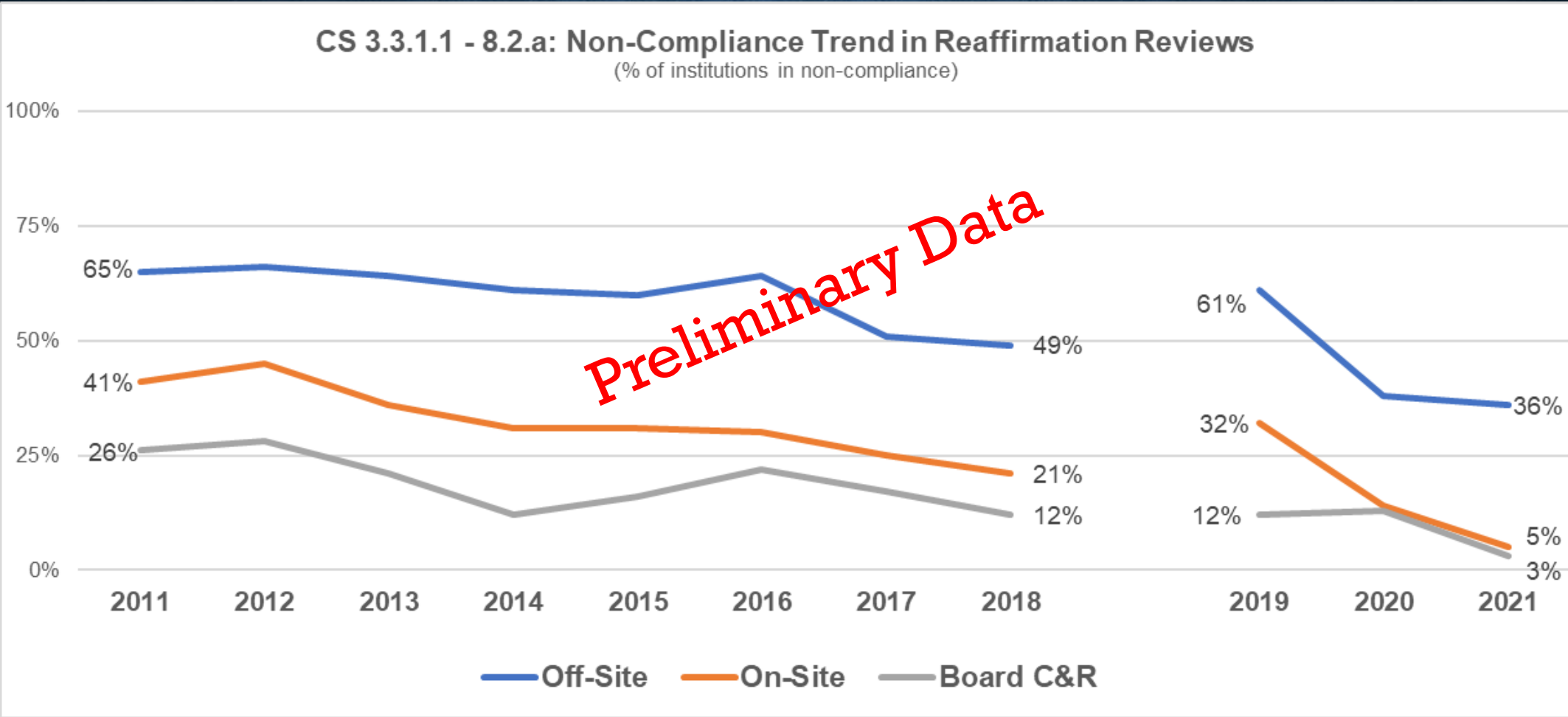
Mean  
Number of  
Standards  
Cited for Non-  
Compliance  
  
(2013-2021)

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021



# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

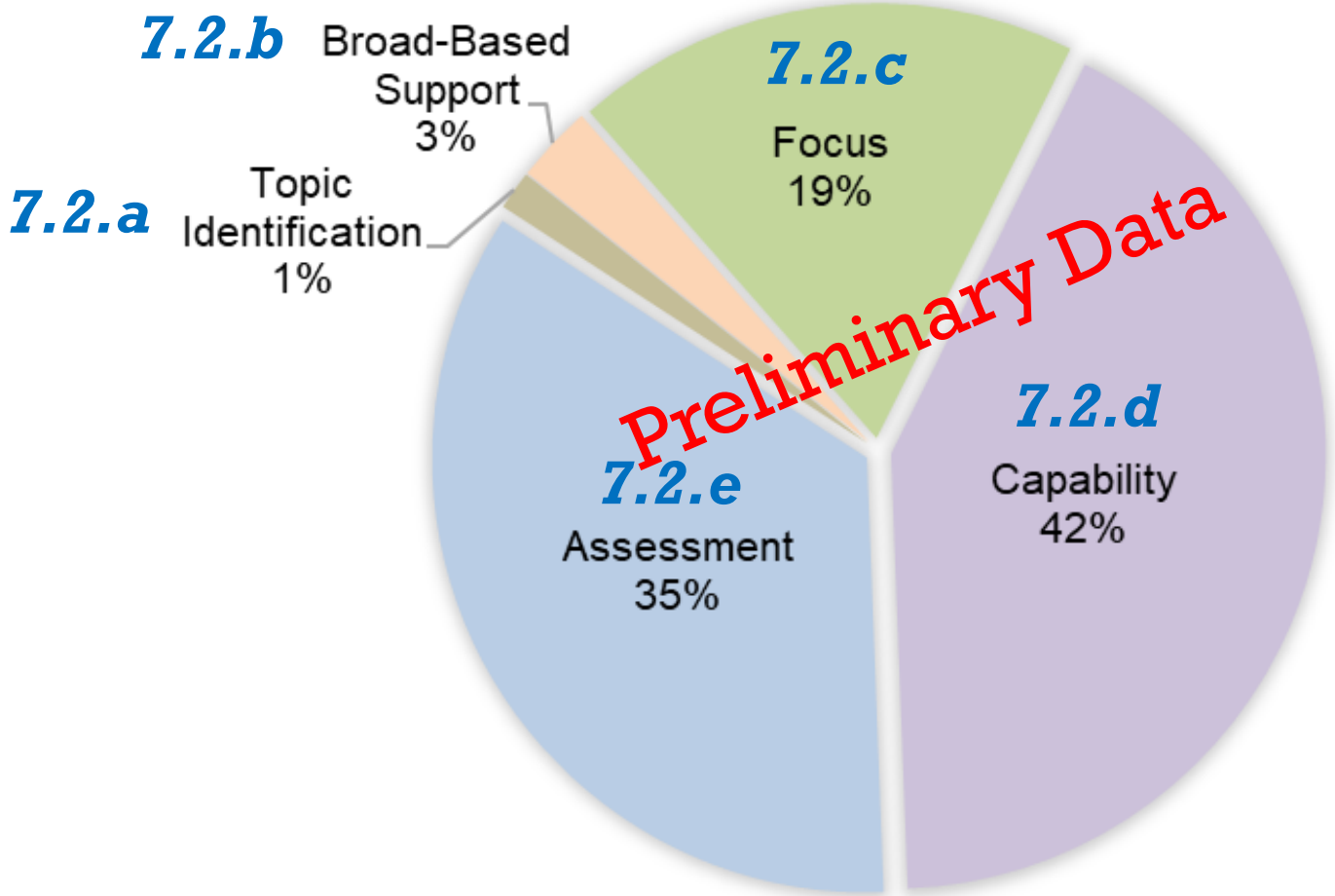
## Non-Compliance Trend – Educational Program Student Learning Outcomes (3.3.1.1 and 8.2.a)



# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

## QEP Non-Compliance Factors:

**Class of 2021** (34 schools cited on 7.2 at ON-site reviews)  
(share of QEP compliance components in the total # of QEP recommendations)



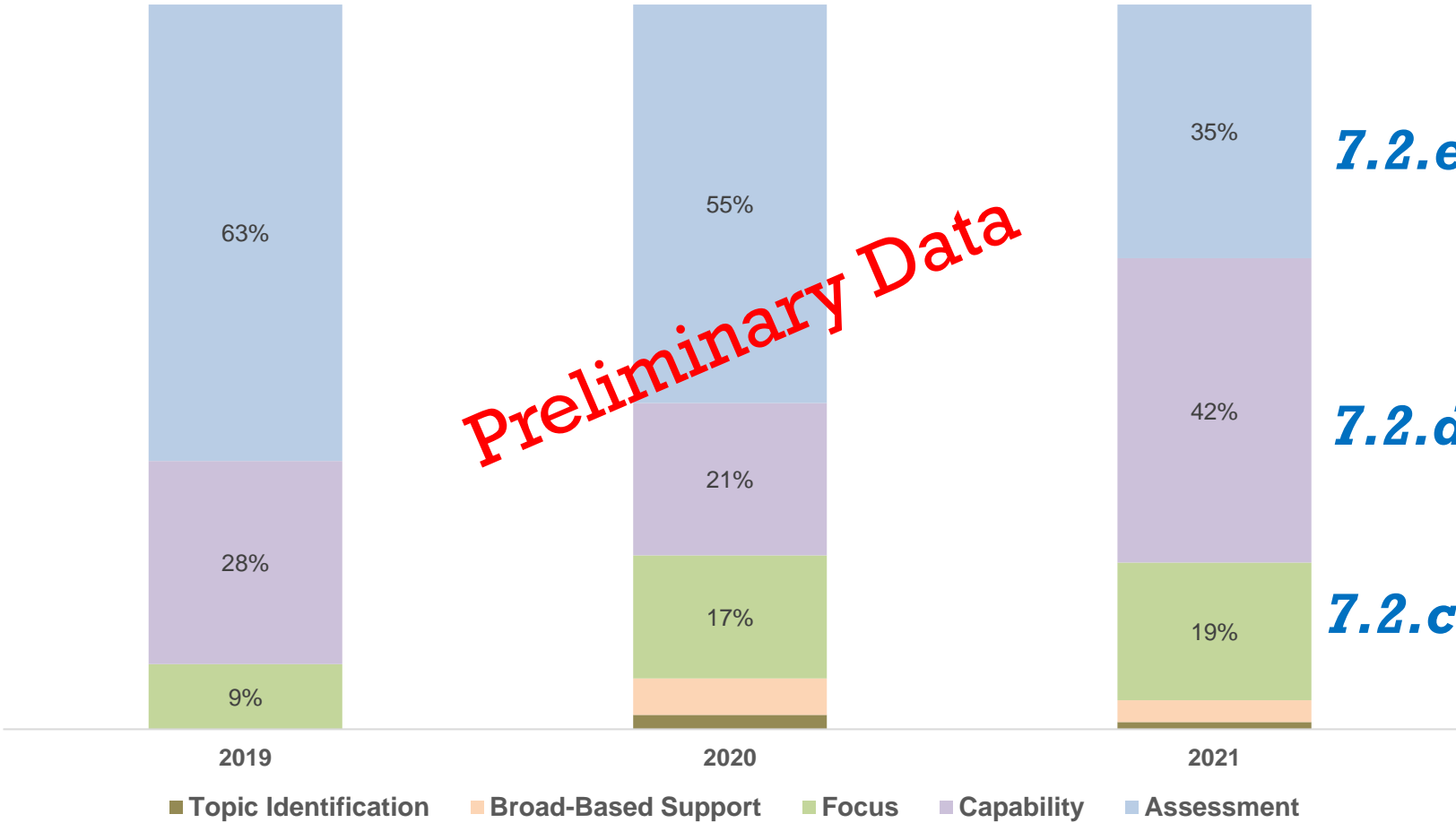
**QEP Non-Compliance Factors:  
Review Stage II (On-Site)**

**Class of 2021**



# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

**QEP Non-Compliance Factors:  
2019, 2020, and 2021 Reaffirmation Classes**  
(share of QEP compliance components in the total # of QEP recommendations)



**Preliminary Data**

**QEP Non-Compliance Factors: Review Stage II (On-Site)**

**7.2.e**

**7.2.d**

**7.2.c**

**Change over last three Classes (2019, 2020, and 2021)**

**7.2.a**

**7.2.b**

**7.2.c**

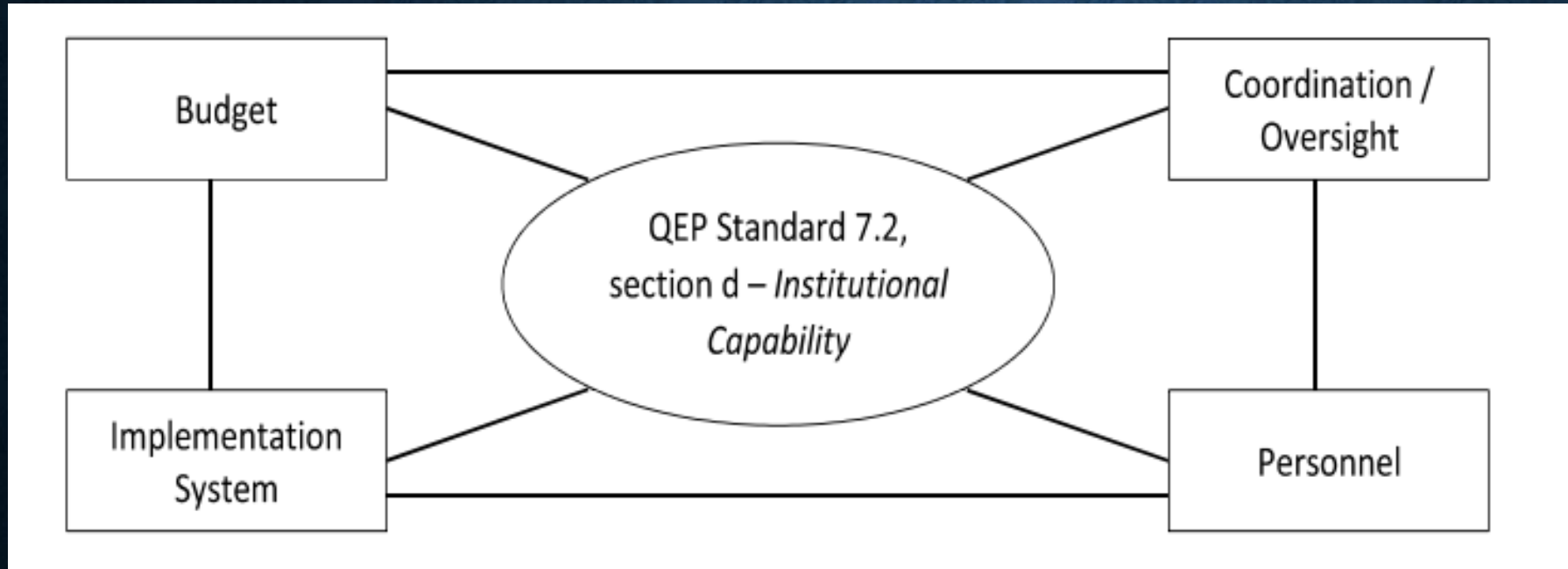
**7.2.d**

**7.2.e**

# Common Non-Compliance Issues (Reaffirmation)

## QEP Standard 7.2.d – Institutional Capacity

### Review Stage II (On-Site)



- (1) Not strictly a money (budget) thing!*
- (2) Coordination/Oversight, Personnel, and Implementation System also cause issues*
- (3) These four categories can be broken into further themes, such as sustainability, alignment of actions and budget, scope and scale, adequacy/sufficiency.....*



# Quick Look at Substantive Change

## Off-Campus Instructional Sites (Approval) – Extensive Review vs. Limited Review

- (1) *Extensive Review – Institution-level AND site-specific review (Full Board of Trustees)*
- (2) *Limited Review – Site-specific review (Executive Council of the Board)*

*What Triggers an Extensive Review? Less than two sites approved via Extensive review OR having not successfully completed at least one reaffirmation OR on Substantive Change Restriction.*

## Appendix C – Quick Reference

*Summary of Substantive Type and requirements, visit, fees, and sub change restrictions*

## Appendix D – Recent Changes

*Summary of policy changes*

Substantive Change Type	Requires			Visit		Other	
	Notification	Approval – Exec Council	Approval – Full Board	Contingent	Required	Review Fee	Sub Change Restriction
<i>This is a summary only. Always consult policy for complete information of substantive change types.</i>							
<b>INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES</b>							
Acquisition	●		●		●	●	
Change Measure Progress to Completion		●				●	
CBE Course-Credit Approach-Institutional Approval		●				●	
Distance Ed-Institutional-level Approval		●				●	
Governance Change	●		●		●	●	

# ***Principles Review Committee***

*Charge: (1) Conduct study of current Principles of Accreditation, (2) to review the 2021 Report entitled, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Comprehensive Summary by the Peer Review Advisory Board (PRAB) and determine how SACSCOC might deepen support of member institutions' commitment to diversity and inclusion, (3) to revisit the distinction between academic governance verses shared governance in the standards*

- **Chair: Dr. Kimberely Hall, South College, TN**
- **SACSCOC Support: Dr. Sandra Jordan, SACSCOC VP**
- **Membership: 13 Members**
  - **VA Representative: President Jon Alger, JMU**
- **Broken into three committees: (1) shared governance, (2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and (3) All other Standards**
- **Some standards that have been brought to staff for discussion are 10.6, 6.1 and 6.2.b, 14.5.a and 14.5.b, ....**



# ***Things I wished someone told me....or someone told me, and I forgot***

*(1) Non-Compliance issues often arise from lack of documentation/evidence*

*(2) Importance of the QEP Lead Evaluator*

*(3) Institutional Record Keeping*

- Substantive Changes w/ Action Letter (including those initiatives that the IAL deems not a substantive change)*
- List of Education Programs w/ method of delivery and location (OCIS)*

*(4) If you are not on your institution's evaluator registry, reach out to your IAL to inquire about the process to get on it.*

*(5) Leverage your network of accreditation professionals*

*(6) Connect with your SACSCOC VP*

*(7) Your colleagues (i.e., peer-evaluators) care about your institution's success*



**Questions?**

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