



**New/Updated Policies and Related Documents
Virginia Regional Accreditation Group
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SACSCOC Policy and Related Documents

- Policies
- Interpretations
- Guidelines
- Good Practices
- Position Statements

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Today's Topics

- Faculty
- Institutional Effectiveness
- Distance Education
- Pandemic
- Substantive Change
- Other

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Faculty

Guideline: *Full-time Faculty – 6.1 and 6.2.b* (June 2019)

- Adequate number to ensure quality and integrity of all aspects of academic programs (not just teaching)
- 6.1 (Institution); 6.2.b (program → not broad areas)

Interpretation on 6.2.a – Faculty Qualifications (Dec 2020)

- Codifies “Faculty from Prior Review Form”
- Identifies who should be on Faculty Roster
- Defines “instructor of record” as person who provides direct instruction for the course and is qualified to teach course

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Institutional Effectiveness

Interpretation of 8.1 – Student Achievement (Dec 2019)

- Criteria (items to be measured) – rationale
- Threshold of acceptability (minimum performance expected) - rationale
- Outcome (actual performance)
- Goal (target level of performance)
- Publish criteria, outcome, goal
- Improvement efforts if not meeting minimum threshold
- Key Student Completion Indicator
 - Compare current performance to baseline
 - Disaggregate (rationale)
 - Improvement efforts for disaggregated performance gaps

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Institutional Effectiveness

Interpretation of 8.2.a – Student Outcomes: Educational Programs (Sep 2020)

- “Transfer” AA and AS degree programs should be addressed.
- If consist primarily of general education courses with no major sequence, student learning outcomes may closely correspond to general education outcomes.
- If consist of coherent and significant cohort of courses that appear to be “major” sequence, each iteration of AA and AS likely is separate educational program with specific student learning outcomes in addition to “core” set of student learning outcomes.

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Institutional Effectiveness

Interpretation on Sampling (Dec 2020)

- Applies to 7.3, 8.2.a, 8.2.c
- May provide sample
- Representative mindful of institutional mission
- Valid cross-section of institution
 - 7.3: Every major administrative division represented
 - 8.2.a: Every major academic division and program level represented. Include off-campus instructional sites and on-line offerings
 - 8.2.c: Every major division represented
- Compelling case as to why sample is appropriate representation

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Distance Education

Policy: *Distance Education and Correspondence Courses* (Sep 2020)

- Updated language

Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education (On-Line Learning) – Sep 2020

- Developed by Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)
- Examples of evidence

Guidelines for Addressing Distance Education and Correspondence Courses: A Guide for Evaluators...(Sep 2020)

- May be helpful in responding to 14.3 and in preparing for visit

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Pandemic

Policies

- *Flexibilities Offered to SACSCSCOC Member Institution During the Period of the COVID-19 Interruptions* (Mar 2020)
- *Emergency Temporary Relocation of Instruction* (Sep 2020)

Position Statements (2020)

- *The Economic Impact of the Global Pandemic on Higher Education During a Time of Worldwide Economic Uncertainties*
- *Maintaining Educational Quality During the Global Pandemic*
- *The Impact of the Global Pandemic on Institutional Planning and Assessment*

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Substantive Change

Policy (Sep 2020) and Procedures (Dec 2020)

- Comprehensive revision
- Refer to Substantive Change website
 - FAQ
 - Crosswalk for major items
 - Video and powerpoint slides from Dr. Kevin Sightler annual meeting presentation
- Determination of new program as significant departure from existing programs based on percent new content (pages 32-33)
- Adding method of instructional delivery to existing program requires notification (possible approval) – pages 31-32

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Other

Policy: *Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure* (Sep 2020)

- Updated Statement of Accreditation

Guideline: *The Accreditation Liaison* (Sep 2020)

- Elaboration on accurate and timely data collected by SACSCOC to include off-campus site information, educational programs, student achievement data, key contacts, and peer evaluators.

Interpretation on Standard 13.8 – Institutional Environment (Dec 2020)

- Information relating to investigations by US Dept of Ed Office of Civil Rights for possible violations alleging sexual violence.

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Your Questions?

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