SACS Overview for SCC Curriculum Committee

Presented September 15, 2009
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Agenda

- SACS overview
- Accrediting standards
- Compliance
- SACS standards and curriculum committee
- Current SACS projects
- Resources
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges (SACS)

Regional Accrediting Body

Accredits institutions in 11 southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia) and Latin America
Accreditation is a designation or status which indicates to the public that a school meets certain quality standards set forth by the accrediting agency.

Achieving and maintaining accreditation is very important because it:

- Protects the public from fraudulent practices
- Ensures compliance with basic quality standards
- Allows students to transfer credits to other accredited schools
- Allows colleges to be in good standing with the Federal Department of Education (and thus dispense federal financial aid)
SCC was initially accredited by SACS in 1969
SCC’s accreditation was reaffirmed in 2003
What has changed since our 2003 SACS Accreditation Report?

- Increased emphasis on planning, assessment and utilizing assessments for improvement
- Increased emphasis on student learning outcomes
- Increased emphasis on concrete evidence
Accrediting Standards

4 parts:
- Principle of Integrity
- Core Requirements
- Comprehensive Standards
- Federal Requirements
Overview of Compliance

- Major Compliance Areas:
  - Governance & Administration
  - Institutional Effectiveness
  - Educational Programs & Curriculum
  - Faculty
  - Library & Learning Resources
  - Student Affairs
  - Financial & Physical Resources
2008 Non-Compliance

SACS Sanctions & Negative Actions 2008
Summary of Top Areas of Institutional Deficiencies

- Financial & Physical Resources
- Faculty
- Educational Programs & Curriculum
- Institutional Effectiveness

Total Number of Deficiencies

0 5 10 15 20 25 30
Consequences on Non-Compliance

- Required Public Disclosure by SACS and on college website and in college catalog.

Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
http://www.sacsoc.org

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
Orangeburg, South Carolina
Issued December 18, 2009, by the Commission on Colleges

The following publicly available information is provided by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools concerning the accreditation of South Carolina State University. Information presented below is in accord with the Commission’s disclosure policy, staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to South Carolina State University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges’ action on South Carolina State University took place on December 8, 2009, and the institution’s next review is December 2009.

What is the accreditation status of South Carolina State University? South Carolina State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges, however, the institution has been placed on Warning for twelve months after Commission review of a Special Committee Report focused on governance and intercollegiate athletics. The Commission’s accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to the Commission; thus, the Warning status applies to the entire institution. Prior to the institution’s next review by the Commission in December 2009, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of the institution’s compliance with the Principles of Accreditation—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

What does Warning mean? Warning is a public sanction imposed by the Commission on Colleges following determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or the Comprehensive Standards of the Principles of Accreditation of the Commission, failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance, or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. For additional information about sanctions, see the Commission’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership” that can be accessed at http://www.sacsoc.org/policies.asp.

Why was South Carolina State University placed on Warning? South Carolina State University was placed on Warning because the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.2 (Governing Board), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.6 (Board/Executive Leadership), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.11 (Control of Intercollegiate Athletics), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.12 (Fund-Raising Activities), and Comprehensive Standard 3.4.10 (Responsibility for Curriculum) of the Principles of Accreditation. These standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) has a governing board that is not controlled by a minority of board members, (2) maintains a clear distinction between board and administration responsibilities, (3) ensures that the chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for intercollegiate athletics and control over fund-raising activities, and (4) places primary responsibility for the quality of its educational programs with the faculty. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation at http://www.sacsoc.org/principles.asp.)

What will happen in December 2009? The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of South Carolina State University following review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the areas cited for non-compliance and review of a report by a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2009. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Warning with or without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue Warning for six months and request an additional report with or without authorization of a Special Committee; (3) place the institution on Probation, request an additional monitoring report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (4) remove the institution’s accreditation. For additional information, access http://www.sacsoc.org/policies.asp. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in December 2009.

For additional information regarding the Commission’s accreditation process, access the Principles of Accreditation (http://www.sacsoc.org/principles.asp).
SACS Sanctions related to Noncompliance

- Denial of membership at a more advanced degree level
- Reaffirmed but placed on Notice for up to a year
- Deferred reaffirmation until next the SACS meeting
- Denial of reaffirmation and placed on Warning or Probation for up to two years
- Withdrawal of accreditation and removal from SACS membership
Quality Enhancement Plan
- 5 year plan
- Designed to improve the quality of student learning
- Focuses on a specific student outcome
Sanctions related to Noncompliance

- Denial of membership at a more advanced degree level
- Denial of substantive change
- Denial of reaffirmation or initial accreditation
- Warning
- Probation
- Withdrawal of accreditation
Standards and curriculum committee

- 3.4.1- The institution demonstrates that each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is approved by the faculty and administration

- 3.4.10- The institution places primary responsibility for the content, quality and effectiveness of the curriculum on the faculty
The Bottom line

- Curriculum is a faculty driven process
- Faculty participation in the curriculum committee process is critical
SACS projects

- Site visit Altamonte campus (July 2009)
- 5th year compliance report (due Fall term 2009)
- Level I to Level II site visit (Spring term 2010)
- QEP (2011-2013)
- 10 year focused report (2013)
- Reaffirmation (2014)
Resources

- SACS website
  - http://www.sacscoc.org/

- SCC SACS website
  - http://www.scc-fl.edu/sacs/

- SCC Educational Services
  - http://www.scc-fl.edu/educational-services/