

14.5 The institution complies with SACSCOC policy statements that pertain to new or additional institutional obligations that may arise that are not part of the standards in the current *Principles of Accreditation*.

(Policy compliance)

(Note: For applicable policies, institutions should refer to the SACSCOC website: www.sacscoc.org)

Rationale and Notes

An institution is responsible for representing accurately to the public its status and relationship with SACSCOC; reporting accurately to the public its status with the state or federal government if receiving funding from either or both; maintaining openness in all accreditation-related activities; ensuring the availability of institutional policies to students and the public; and publishing appropriate information with respect to student achievement. SACSCOC’s philosophy of accreditation precludes removal from or denial of membership or candidacy to a degree-granting institution of higher education on any ground other than an institution’s failure to meet the standards of membership as determined by the professional judgment of peer reviewers, or failure to comply with SACSCOC policies and procedures.

New SACSCOC policies are developed from time to time, often because of a federal mandate or because of a major change in the higher education landscape. Not all policies pertain directly to an institution’s obligations for compliance; many policies relate to how SACSCOC itself operates. But when a policy requires actions or compliance by member institutions, Standard 14.5 (*Policy compliance*) makes clear that noncompliance with a policy has the same implications as noncompliance with a standard of the *Principles of Accreditation*. Appendix D lists policies that currently affect compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*, and are referenced in different places in this *Manual*. Other policies also affect institutions directly and they, too, are listed in Appendix D. However, it is an institutional obligation to stay informed as to new policies promulgated since the publication of this *Manual*. These will appear on the [Policies and Publications](#) page of the [SACSCOC website](#).

NOTE

If no new policies requiring a response have been adopted since the publication of this Manual, then the institution may list this standard as “not applicable.”

Questions to Consider

- Have you checked the SACSCOC website to see if there have been policy revisions or new policies since this *Resource Manual* was published?
- Does either the CEO’s office or the Accreditation Liaison maintain a file of emails sent from SACSCOC that includes information about policy revisions or new policies?
- Are you using the most current Compliance Certification of Fifth-Year Interim Report template?

Sample Documentation

- Documentation will depend upon what, if any, changes have been made to SACSCOC policies.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

Refer to the [SACSCOC website](#) under the link for [Policies and Publications](#)

Cross-References to Other Related Standards/Requirements, If Applicable

None noted.