

## 14.5

### Policy Compliance

The institution complies with SACSCOC's 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.

### Judgment

Compliant  Non-Compliant  Not Applicable

### SACSCOC Reviewer Comments

The institution complies with SACSCOC's 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 [<http://www.sacscoc.org>])*

### Non-Compliance

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," states that:

For electronic submissions, please comply with all steps outlined below:

1. Copy the report and all attachments onto the appropriate number of flash drives, in accordance with the number of requested copies of the report. Each flash drive should be labeled with the name of the institution and the title of the report. All hyperlinks in the narrative document should open documents stored on the flash drive itself. Documents should be bookmarked, indexed, and searchable. Printed documents should not be scanned to create a pdf, since this process will result in a large file that is not searchable.

As noted throughout this report, the institution provides a preponderance of evidence via links that go to websites outside the flash drive; the Commission expects that institutions provide static information for its reaffirmation records. While the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee made every attempt to review the institution's documentation, some documentation could not be reviewed or considered due to the (a) live websites with no instructions or directions for how to find the intended evidence, (b) broken links, (c) low-quality, blurred images that were unreadable, and (d) lack of direct access to the evidence. In addition, the institution often linked to multipage documents as evidence, and expected the Committee to search the documents for the relevant evidence. The institution's software program (Compliance Assist) has the capability of directing reviewers to specific pages within documents, which expedites the reviewer's work. However, this tool does not work when live links are used to access documents.

The expectation is that all documentation is self-contained within the flash drive provided; therefore, all documentation should be static, downloaded and linked within the flash drive. The institution should not expect the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee to search live websites. PDF documents and embedded figures should be inspected for clarity and readability. In some instances, the institution's narrative refers to abbreviations for documents or services without spelling them out the first time; the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee made every effort to interpret them, but in some instances, it was not possible.

To address the institution's failure to comply with the SACSCOC policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," the institution needs to provide the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee in its Focused Report a complete narrative with appropriate linked documentation in support of the institution's cases for compliance for all United States Department of Education required standards. These standards are: 5.4 (Qualified administrative and academic officers), 6.1 (Full-time faculty), 6.2.b (Program faculty), 6.2.c (Program coordination), 8.1 (Student achievement), 8.2.a (Student outcomes: educational programs), 9.1 (Program content), 9.2 (Program length), 9.3 (General education), 10.2 (Public information), 10.5 (Admissions policies and practices), 10.6 (Distance and correspondence education), 10.7 (Policies for awarding credit), 12.1 (Student support services), 12.4 (Student complaints), 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities), 13.7 (Physical resources), 14.1 (Publication of accreditation status), 14.3 (Comprehensive institutional reviews), and 14.4 (Representation to other agencies). This is required even if the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found adequate documentation in support of the institution's case for compliance.

### Campus Response

The University of South Carolina Columbia recognizes the issues related to documentation in the original submission (due to a misunderstanding of our vendor's services) and greatly appreciates the Off-Site Committee's effort to find it in compliance with the majority of standards despite the lack of compliance with the policy related to report submission (Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review).

As required, we have provided complete narratives with appropriate documentation for all United States Department of Education required standards. All hyperlinks in the narratives will open to documents stored on the flash drive itself. These standards are:

- 5.4 (Qualified administrative and academic officers)
- 6.1 (Full-time faculty)
- 6.2.b (Program faculty)
- 6.2.c (Program coordination)
- 8.1 (Student achievement)
- 8.2.a (Student outcomes: educational programs)
- 9.1 (Program content)
- 9.2 (Program length)
- 9.3 (General education)
- 10.2 (Public information)
- 10.5 (Admissions policies and practices)
- 10.6 (Distance and correspondence education)
- 10.7 (Policies for awarding credit)
- 12.1 (Student support services)
- 12.4 (Student complaints)
- 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities)
- 13.7 (Physical resources)
- 14.1 (Publication of accreditation status)
- 14.3 (Comprehensive institutional reviews)
- 14.4 (Representation to other agencies)

The updated versions of these standards can be found under the "Department of Education Standards" tab of this report (see below):



Click on this tab

In addition to the US Department of Education Standards tab, all hyperlinks and documentation in narratives on the Focused report tab are also self-contained within the flash drive provided.

### Sources

-  14.5 Policy Compliance Off-Site Committee Feedback