Continuing The Principles of Accreditation!

The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement includes standards and requirements that apply to all programs and services within an institution.

Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources

13.1 [CR]

SACSCOC (2018) states, “Although missions vary among institutions, both a sound financial base and a pattern of financial stability provide the foundation for accomplishing an institution’s mission” (pg. 123). Adequate financial and physical resources allow for effective use of institutional resources and are essential to the educational environment to support the institutional mission and the scope of the institution’s programs and services.

13.2 [CR]

The institution’s responsibility is to make its case to finance evaluators by providing ample trend information to explain its current stability and resources. Public institutions may provide audited financial statements depending on the individual institution, and are often audited as part of a state or systemwide entity. With this being said, the systemwide audit must give supplemental schedules with details of the specific accredited institution with adequate information for determining stability, resources, and operational outcomes.

13.3

Institutions have obligations to its current and future students, the public, and to government entities to manage their finances responsibly. Even though an institution may be financially stable overall with adequate financial resources, it can still experience alterations in its financial health, such as changes in enrollment, expenditures, or funding. SACSCOC (2018) says, “If an institution experiences operational problems or undertakes actions not generally considered commonly accepted practices, it is important that the institution understand the issues, explain their causes, and have a reasonable plan for remedying the situation” (pg. 130).

13.4

Financial resource management is essential to maintaining long-term stability of an institution. An institution has a fiduciary responsibility to manage in a well advised and responsible manner, and the responsibility extends to caring for its financial assets. This requires the institution to have an adequate amount of qualified staff empowered to issue procedures and systems for sufficient checks, balances, and control over assets.

Accreditation Resource Team (ART) Update

The finish line is only twenty-four days away! What an incredible journey this has been. Final narratives are being completed, evidence is being uploaded, and review is underway.
Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources

13.5
This standard ensures an institution maintains financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs that are made to assist in fulfillment of the institutional mission. Relinquishing financial controls to the source of funding may compromise ethical, financial, or management standards, the same precautions in financial control should prevail as in internally funded activities.

13.6
SACSCOC (2018) states, “An institution must comply with the program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended, or risk the loss of federal aid for both its students and organizational needs” (pg. 134). SACSCOC is compelled to review information that is submitted by the institution, or issued by the U.S. Department of Education, that has the potential to effect an institution’s continuance of compliance with the SACSCOC standards.

13.7
Adequate physical resources, including facilities that are safe and appropriate for the institution’s programs and services, are necessary to the educational environment. This standard acknowledges that the institution ensures sufficient physical facilities and resources, on and off campus, that correctly serve needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and any other mission-related activities.

13.8
An institution has an ethical duty to take rational steps to provide a healthy, secure, and safe environment for all of the members of the campus community. SACSCOC (2018) says, “A healthy, safe, and secure environment enhances the accomplishment of the institution’s mission and contributes to more effective risk management” (pg. 138).

For more information contact the SACSCOC Liaison, Patty Collins, at 409.882.3922 or patty.collins@lsco.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Date</th>
<th>Accreditation Process</th>
<th>Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)</th>
<th>Institutional Effectiveness Plan (IEP)</th>
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| March 2024  | CCR and Institutional Summary due 3/1  
*ART Team celebration!*  
Logistics Team Meeting | Continued promotion of QEP on campus and throughout the LSCO Community. | Budget Preparation for FY25 expenses  
Begin drafting AY25 Unit Plans to ensure any budget implications are included in FY25 budget request |
| April 2024  | Off-site review (23-26)  
Logistics Team Meeting | Continue edits to QEP  
Promotion of QEP at Spring Day Event | |
| May 2024    | Review of Off-Site Report (if received in May)  
(If necessary) Begin drafting Focus Report  
Logistics Team Meeting | Review results of QEP Pilot  
Outline model for QEP Annual Report  
Refine QEP data collection system | Begin closing out AY24 Unit Plans by completing results and documenting evidence of improvement. |
| June 2024   | Preparation for On-site review committee  
Logistic Team Final Checklist | |
| July 2024   | (If necessary) Continue Focus Report  
Begin preparations for on-site review | Continue drafting QEP Annual Report | AY24 Unit Plan assessment results due by 7/31 |
| August 2024 | Focus Report due 8/15  
Orient OCIS partners to on-site review process | QEP Annual Report due 8/15  
Continue QEP Pilot for Fall semester  
QEP Newsletter—Internal promotion of QEP to faculty, staff, and students | |
| September 2024 | Coordinate final details and arrangements for on-site review  
Respond to requests for additional information from chair of on-site review committee | QEP Newsletter—Internal promotion of QEP to faculty, staff, and students | New academic year (AY25) begins—Administrative and Educational Outcome Assessment Plans are implemented |

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