



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097*

**POLICIES, INTERPRETATIONS, GUIDELINES, GOOD PRACTICES, AND POSITION  
STATEMENTS:  
DEFINITIONS FOR ACCREDITATION PURPOSES**

**Policy Statement**

**SACSCOC Policies**

A policy is a required course of action to be followed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges or its member or candidate institutions. SACSCOC policies may also include procedures, which are likewise a required course of action to be followed by SACSCOC or its member or candidate institutions. The *Principles of Accreditation* requires that an institution comply with the policies and procedures of SACSCOC. Policies are approved by vote of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. At its discretion, the Board may choose to forward a policy to the College Delegate Assembly for approval.

**SACSCOC Interpretation of Standards**

An interpretation is a clarification of the expectations required of member or candidate institutions for documenting compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Interpretations are approved by vote of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

**SACSCOC Position Statements**

A position statement examines an issue facing SACSCOC members, describes appropriate approaches, and states SACSCOC's stance on the issue. It is approved by the Executive Council or the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

**SACSCOC Guidelines**

A guideline is an advisory statement designed to assist institutions in fulfilling accreditation requirements. As such, guidelines describe recommended educational practices for documenting requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* and are approved by the President with notification to the Executive Council. The guidelines are examples of commonly accepted practices that constitute compliance with the standard. Depending upon the nature and mission of the institution, however, other approaches may be more appropriate and also provide evidence of compliance.

**SACSCOC Good Practices**

Good practices are commonly-accepted practices within the higher education community that enhance institutional quality. Good practices may be formulated by outside agencies and organizations and approved by the President with notification to the Executive Council.

SACSCOC staff are responsible for updating and correcting errors of fact or language in policies, interpretations, guidelines, good practices, and position statements, as they are discovered, on behalf of the Executive Council and/or Board of Trustees.

All documents are available on the SACSCOC website. SACSCOC maintains currency of website information and reserves the right to add, modify, or delete any of the documents listed.

**Document History**

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