

## SECTION 1: The Principle of Integrity

### 1.1 The institution operates with integrity in all matters. (*Integrity*) [CR]

(Note: While this principle is not addressed by the institution in its Compliance Certification or its application for accreditation, failure to adhere to this principle will lead to the imposition of a sanction, adverse action, or denial of authorization of a Candidacy Committee.)

#### Rationale and Notes

Institutional integrity serves as the foundation of the relationship between SACSCOC and its member and candidate institutions. This fundamental philosophy is reflected in the *Principles of Accreditation* as follows:

Institutional integrity is essential to the purpose of higher education. Integrity functions as the basic covenant defining the relationship between the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and its member and candidate institutions. The principle serves as the foundation of a relationship in which all parties agree to deal honestly and openly with both their constituencies and with one another.

As a condition of candidacy or membership with the SACSCOC, the institution agrees to document its compliance with the requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation*; to comply with SACSCOC requests, directives, decisions, and policies; and to make complete, accurate, and honest disclosure to the Commission.

The policy [Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership](#), states that SACSCOC requires a member institution to comply with all standards within the *Principles of Accreditation*, as well as applicable SACSCOC policies and procedures, and to provide information as requested by the Commission in order to maintain membership and accreditation.

In order to comply with these requirements for integrity and accuracy in reporting in its relationships with the Commission, the chief executive officer and Accreditation Liaison must review and ensure the accuracy and integrity of materials submitted by the institution, such as the Compliance Certification and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). In addition, an institution shall meet the following expectations:

1. Ensure that all documents submitted to SACSCOC are candid and provide all pertinent information, whether complimentary or otherwise. With due regard for the rights of individual privacy, every institution applying for candidacy, extension of candidacy, accreditation, or reaffirmation of accreditation, as well as every candidate and accredited institution, provide the Commission with access to all parts of its operations, and with complete and accurate information about the institution's affairs, including reports of other accrediting, licensing, and auditing agencies.

2. Respond in a timely manner to requests by SACSCOC for submission of dues, fees, and reports, as well as other requests for information.
3. Ensure that information submitted to SACSCOC (such as that provided in the annual institutional profile, institutional responses to visiting committee reports, and monitoring reports) is complete, accurate, and current. An institution is obligated to notify the Commission office of any bankruptcy filing.
4. Cooperate with the Commission in preparation for visits, receive visiting committees in a spirit of collegiality, and comply with SACSCOC requests for acceptable reports and self-analyses.
5. Report substantive changes, including the initiation of new programs or sites inside or outside the region, in accordance with SACSCOC's policy on substantive change.
6. Provide counsel and advice to the Commission and agree to have its faculty and administrators (including the chief executive officer) serve, within reason, on visiting committees and on other SACSCOC committees.
7. Provide SACSCOC or its representatives with information requested and maintain an openness and cooperation during evaluations, enabling evaluators to perform their duties with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

SACSCOC accredits degree-granting institutions of higher education, not individuals or systems. Therefore, any individual who reports to SACSCOC on behalf of an institution—either by virtue of his or her office or as delegated by the chief executive officer of the institution—obligates the institution in all matters regarding institutional integrity.

### **Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable**

SACSCOC policy: [Integrity and Institutional Obligations to SACSCOC](#)

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

Applies to compliance with all standards/requirements and policies.