



*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 Interpretations

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 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 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 endorsed by the Executive Council or 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 endorsed by the Executive Council or the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

All documents are available on the SACSCOC website and a listing can be accessed through the document [index](#). 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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