



TORCH REPORT

Leading Together on Transfer Credit

Throughout the history of American higher education, few issues have proven as persistent — or as frustrating — as the transfer of academic credit.

Every year, millions of earned credits fail to transfer, extending time to degree, increasing student debt, delaying entry into the workforce, and, too often, causing students to abandon their educational goals.

Transfer is no longer simply an administrative issue. It is a student success, workforce, affordability, and public trust issue.

Over the past year, I have shared my vision of building the accreditor that never existed — one that convenes, innovates, and creates opportunities for institutions to work together in ways that strengthen quality and student success.

The SACSCOC Transfer Credit Consortium is exactly that kind of opportunity.

The Consortium is voluntary. It does not replace existing articulation agreements or state transfer initiatives. Instead, it brings together institutions committed to solving one of higher education's most enduring challenges.

What makes this effort different is that faculty will lead it. Faculty experts from participating institutions will collaboratively review general education coursework, establish common expectations for learning outcomes, and develop transfer compendiums that preserve academic quality while creating clearer pathways for students.



Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt
SACSCOC President



Photos: The SACSCOC Board of Trustees met in New Orleans, LA, in June.



This work comes at an important moment. Policymakers across the country are increasingly focused on transfer and credit mobility. If higher education does not lead this conversation, others will. I believe our institutions are fully capable of addressing this challenge together, and I believe SACSCOC is uniquely positioned to convene that effort.

The potential impact is significant. Students can transfer with greater confidence that their work will count toward a degree. Advisors can spend less time navigating course equivalencies and more time helping students succeed. Institutions maintain academic rigor while reducing administrative burden. Employers gain graduates sooner, and families benefit from a system that works more effectively on behalf of students.

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The Transfer Credit Consortium also reflects the broader transformation taking place across SACSCOC. Whether modernizing our Principles of Accreditation, streamlining processes, or creating new opportunities for collaboration, our goal remains the same: helping institutions better serve students. Students First, Always.

At the time of this publication, more than 120 institutions representing a wide range of missions and sizes have committed to helping develop the Consortium framework.

With your continued partnership, this initiative has the potential to become a national model for improving transfer while preserving institutional quality, faculty leadership, and institutional independence.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your willingness to innovate, and your unwavering commitment to the students we collectively serve.

Be Bold, Stay Gold.

Transfer Credit Consortium Quick Facts:

- New voluntary, faculty-led initiative to improve transfer of general education credits.
- Creates more predictable transfer pathways while preserving institutional autonomy.
- Aims to reduce credit loss, lower student costs, and accelerate degree completion.
- Member feedback begins at Summer Institute before framework development starts.

Annual Meeting 2026

Volunteering at the Annual Meeting is a fun, enlightening way to connect with colleagues, support the participant experience, and learn how the magic happens.

Volunteer roles may include:

- Assisting with registration and attendee questions
- Supporting presenters and session rooms
- Serving as greeters or wayfinders
- Helping event staff keep things running smoothly

👉 Interested in volunteering? Complete the Volunteer Interest Survey [here](#).

SACSCOC Annual Meeting:

December 5-8, 2026 | Houston, Texas

Introducing Our New Brand:



On Thursday, June 11, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Inc., voted to market its accreditation services under the trade name “The Commission on Colleges and Universities,” effective September 1, 2026, to more accurately reflect the global reach of its operations.

While the corporation will do business as “The Commission on Colleges and Universities” or as “The Commission,” it will continue to accredit institutions under the name of the Department of Education-

approved accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Inc., to prevent any disruption for its accredited institutions.

While our name is changing, our mission and commitment to member institutions remain the same.

“This new identity reflects who we are today and where higher education is going,” said Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt, president of The Commission on Colleges and Universities. “The Commission on Colleges and Universities better reflects the scope of our work, the institutions we serve, and our vision for the future. We are here to partner with our member institutions as they move from accountability to impact.”

It is important to emphasize that this change does not affect the accreditation status of any member institution. Institutions will not be required to pursue changes to state laws, regulations, or policies because of this transition. Our accreditation authority, responsibilities, and commitment to quality assurance remain the same.

[Learn More Here.](#)



***The torch illuminates.
The shield protects.***

Our traditional torch reflects learning, discovery, and innovation. The added shield reflects accountability, stewardship, and our responsibility to protect the interests of students and institutions worldwide.

Commission Launches Workforce Initiative Site

The Commission launched a major initiative to strengthen how colleges and universities prepare students for the evolving workforce, made possible through a Lumina Foundation grant.

The two-year initiative brings together institutions across the Commission membership — including community colleges, public and private universities, and research institutions — to better align academic programs with workforce needs nationwide.

As part of the Lumina Foundation grant, the Commission has launched a webpage dedicated to the initiative, which includes news and updates, blog posts, video content, and more. The site serves as a central hub for institutions participating in the initiative and highlights innovative workforce programs across the membership.

Access the Workforce Initiative [webpage here](#).

Staff Updates

Dr. Holly French Hart has joined the Commission as **Vice President**, bringing more than 28 years of experience in higher education leadership, accreditation, institutional effectiveness, and workforce development.



She previously served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness at Bossier Parish Community College. Dr. Hart has also served the Commission as a peer evaluator, committee chair, arbitrator, and Assistant Grant Coordinator for the Commission's Lumina-supported Workforce Initiative.

Dr. Justine Meyr has joined the Commission as **Coordinator of New Member Services**, supporting institutions pursuing initial membership and guiding them through the accreditation process.



She previously held academic and leadership roles at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Make School, and WSCUC, with experience in accreditation, faculty development, curriculum design, and educational technology. Dr. Meyr earned both her master's degree in Latin American and Iberian Studies and her Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Substantive Change:

Certificates and Workforce Development:

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

- Certificate in Remote Drone Piloting

Lamar State College - Orange

- Level 1 Certificate in Advanced Industrial Robotics and Automation

Maryland Community College

- Certificate in Health Sciences

Southeastern Technical College

- Technical Certificate of Credit in Basic SUAS-Drone Technology

Southwest Virginia Community College

- Career Studies Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence
- Career Studies Certificate in Building Trades
- Career Studies Certificate in Diesel Repair
- Career Studies Certificate in Heavy Equipment Operations

Technical College of the Lowcountry

- Certificate in Basic and Advanced Welding

University of Mary Washington

- Certificate in Entrepreneurial Leadership

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Undergraduate Certificate in Experiential Medical Science

Reduced-Credit Hour Programs:

Roanoke College

- Abridged Bachelor of Science in Cannabis Studies
- Abridged Bachelor of Science in Public Administration

News from Sub Change

Highlights in this edition of the Sub Change Series newsletter include:

- Submissions increased 10% over the past year.
- Average processing time reduced 53% (66 to 31 days).
- More than 1,000 Executive Council cases processed with improved turnaround times.
- New online workflows, guidance documents, and policy updates continue to streamline the process for member institutions.

[Download the full Sub Change newsletter here.](#)

Welcoming Three New Member Institutions

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved membership for three institutions, recognizing their commitment to educational quality, student success, and institutional effectiveness.

The newly approved member institutions are:

- Gammon Theological Seminary – Atlanta, GA
- Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College – Minden, LA
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – Memphis, TN

"These institutions reflect the diversity of missions represented throughout our membership and the many ways higher education transforms lives," said Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt, president of SACSCOC.

"From advancing life-saving biomedical research to preparing skilled members of the workforce and educating faith-based leaders, each institution contributes in meaningful ways to students, communities, and society."

Gammon Theological Seminary is a Historically Black theological institution of The United Methodist Church dedicated to educating and equipping leaders for Christian ministry and public leadership. Through its mission, the seminary prepares individuals who partner with God in advancing a just, transformative, and life-giving world.

For generations, Gammon has played a significant role in developing faith leaders committed to service, justice, and community transformation throughout the United States and beyond.

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College is an engaged institution empowering a diverse community of learners through accessible, high-quality technical education and workforce training. Serving students across northwest Louisiana, the college advances careers, meets workforce needs, and strengthens the region's economic vitality. The institution's commitment to student success and workforce development helps prepare graduates for meaningful careers in high-demand industries while supporting the communities and employers it serves.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is an innovative institution that trains and inspires the next generation of scientists and health professionals. Through education and research, the graduate school prepares students to advance discoveries that transform the understanding and treatment of catastrophic childhood diseases and pediatric cancers. Closely connected to the internationally recognized mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the institution equips future leaders in biomedical science to address some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges.

"The addition of these institutions strengthens our membership and reflects the remarkable breadth of educational missions represented within our accredited community," Pruitt said. "We are pleased to welcome each institution and look forward to supporting their continued pursuit of excellence."

[Learn more about Commission membership here.](#)

WORKFORCE IMPACT:

Blinn College District celebrated the grand opening of its new Waller Workforce and Technical Education Complex, marking an important step in the College District's efforts to expand access to workforce training and technical education in Waller, Texas, and Harris County.

The facility includes three classrooms, a computer lab, a medical learning lab, a mechatronics/advanced manufacturing lab, a skilled trades lab, and faculty and staff offices. Blinn will offer an array of programs at the new facility, including Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-Basic certification, certified clinical medical assistant, HVAC, carpentry, construction management, and expanded mechatronics and advanced manufacturing courses.

[Learn more.](#)



We want to hear from you! If your campus has recent news you'd like to share, please send a brief description, along with relevant links or photos, to communications@sacscoc.org.