

SECTION 10: Educational Policies, Procedures, and Practices

10.1 The institution publishes, implements, and disseminates academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice and that accurately represent the programs and services of the institution. (*Academic policies*)

Rationale and Notes

Effective academic policies related to an institution's educational programs are developed in concert with the appropriate input and participation of the constituencies affected by the policies, conform to commonly accepted practices and policies in higher education, accurately portray the institution's programs and services, and are disseminated to those benefiting from such practices. These academic policies lead to a teaching and learning environment that enhances the achievement of student outcomes and success.

To advance learning, all coursework taken for academic credit has rigor, substance, and standards connected to established learning outcomes. To protect the integrity of degrees offered, the institution is responsible for the quality of all coursework transcribed as if it were credit earned from the institution.

Each institution develops academic policies—such as grading policies, withdrawals, degree completion requirements, academic misconduct policies, syllabus requirements—that are appropriate to its programs and students and that accurately portray its programs and services. Good educational practice presumes that these academic policies lead to a teaching and learning environment that enhances student learning. Faculty members assume responsibility for determining good educational practice and, therefore, should have a substantive role in the development and review of academic policies.

Questions to Consider

- How does the mission of the institution affect its academic practices?
- How are academic policies developed, approved, and revised?
- How and where are academic policies published for those constituencies affected by them?
- What is the role of faculty in determining academic policies?
- Are there examples of the implementation of various academic policies?

Sample Documentation

- Institutional publications that contain academic policies.
- A description of the published process by which academic policies are developed.
- Examples showing implementation and enforcement of academic policies.
- Minutes of meetings in which academic policies are modified or approved.

- Examples of policies that pertain to distance education, to course delivery at off-campus sites, branch campuses, dual enrollment, and for competency-based educational programs, or evidence that policies do not differ in any of these circumstances.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

SACSCOC policies: [Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards](#)
[Direct Assessment Competency-Based Educational Programs](#)
[Distance and Correspondence Education](#)
[Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure](#)
[Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions](#)

This standard requires a policy or procedure; see Appendix A of this document for implications. See also:

SACSCOC Good Practices:

[Developing Policy and Procedures Documents](#)

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

Standard 10.2 (*Public information*)
Standard 12.3 (*Student rights*)
Standard 14.2 (*Substantive change*)

10.2 The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies. (*Public information*)

Rationale and Notes

Good educational practice suggests that the institution's constituents be informed about matters such as academic calendars, grading policies, and refund policies. Such policies and calendars are published and widely distributed.

NOTE

Even if some of these policies were discussed in Standard 10.1 (Academic policies), information related to how they are made available to students and to the public should be repeated here.