

**6.5****The institution provides ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty members as teachers, scholars, and practitioners, consistent with the institutional mission. (*Faculty development*)****Rationale and Notes**

Faculty members are at the core of institutional mission-driven activities, and therefore need to stay current, improve their own knowledge and skills, and have the opportunity to actively participate in their profession, including (as appropriate) conducting research, and engaging in scholarship and clinical practice. In order to establish and sustain a culture where faculty professional development is valued and pervasive, it is important that institutions develop a systematic and comprehensive approach to offering and supporting activities and programs that assist and encourage members of the faculty to pursue professional development. Because of the wide range of institutions within the SACSCOC membership, faculty development policies should be crafted—and reviewed—in light of the institution’s mission.

**Questions to Consider**

- Does the institution have its own definition of what constitutes professional development? What activities are classified as professional development?
- How does the institution support faculty professional development? This may include release time, direct funding, mini-grants, travel reimbursement, and the like.
- What are the policies, procedures, and programs dealing with the professional development of faculty members?
- How are faculty members informed of professional development opportunities?
- Are there development opportunities for adjunct faculty or dual-enrollment faculty?
- Is there evidence that faculty are actively engaged in professional development activities?

**Sample Documentation**

- Policies and procedures governing faculty professional development, and evidence these policies are implemented.
- Descriptions of ongoing professional development activities supported by the institution.
- Description of resources allocated by the institution in support of ongoing faculty professional development.
- Evidence that members of the faculty are involved in professional development.
- Description of how faculty share their professional development experience with other members of the faculty or external groups.

## Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

None noted.

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

Standard 11.3 (*Library and learning/information resources*)

CR 12.1 (*Student support services*)