

# LSCO's Journey to Reaffirmation 2025

February 2024



## ***Continuing The Principles of Accreditation!***

The [\*Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement\*](#) includes standards and requirements that apply to all programs and services within an institution.

### ***Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources***

#### ***13.1 [CR]***

SACSCOC (2018) states, "Although missions vary among institutions, both a sound financial base and a pattern of financial stability provide the foundation for accomplishing an institution's mission" (pg. 123). Adequate financial and physical resources allow for effective use of institutional resources and are essential to the educational environment to support the institutional mission and the scope of the institution's programs and services.

### ***Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources***

#### ***13.2 [CR]***

The institution's responsibility is to make its case to finance evaluators by providing ample trend information to explain its current stability and resources. Public institutions may provide audited financial statements depending on the individual institution, and are often audited as part of a state or systemwide entity. With this being said, the systemwide audit must give supplemental schedules with details of the specific accredited institution with adequate information for determining stability, resources, and operational outcomes.

### ***Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources***

#### ***13.3***

Institutions have obligations to its current and future students, the public, and to government entities to manage their finances responsibly. Even though an institution may be financially stable overall with adequate financial resources, it can still experience alterations in its financial health, such as changes in enrollment, expenditures, or funding. SACSCOC (2018) says, "If an institution experiences operational problems or undertakes actions not generally considered commonly accepted practices, it is important that the institution understand the issues, explain their causes, and have a reasonable plan for remedying the situation" (pg. 130).

### ***Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources***

#### ***13.4***

Financial resource management is essential to maintaining long-term stability of an institution. An institution has a fiduciary responsibility to manage in a well advised and responsible manner, and the responsibility extends to caring for its financial assets. This requires the institution to have an adequate amount of qualified staff empowered to issue procedures and systems for sufficient checks, balances, and control over assets.

#### **Accreditation Resource Team (ART) Update**

The finish line is only **twenty-four** days away! What an incredible journey this has been. Final narratives are being completed, evidence is being uploaded, and review is underway.

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## *Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources*

### **13.5**

This standard ensures an institution maintains financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs that are made to assist in fulfillment of the institutional mission. Relinquishing financial controls to the source of funding may compromise ethical, financial, or management standards, the same precautions in financial control should prevail as in internally funded activities.

## *Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources*

### **13.7**

Adequate physical resources, including facilities that are safe and appropriate for the institution's programs and services, are necessary to the educational environment. This standard acknowledges that the institution ensures sufficient physical facilities and resources, on and off campus, that correctly serve needs of the institution's educational programs, support services, and any other mission-related activities.

## *Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources*

### **13.6**

SACSCOC (2018) states, "An institution must comply with the program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended, or risk the loss of federal aid for both its students and organizational needs" (pg. 134). SACSCOC is compelled to review information that is submitted by the institution, or issued by the U.S. Department of Education, that has the potential to effect an institution's continuance of compliance with the SACSCOC standards.

## *Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources*

### **13.8**

An institution has an ethical duty to take rational steps to provide a healthy, secure, and safe environment for all of the members of the campus community. SACSCOC (2018) says, "A healthy, safe, and secure environment enhances the accomplishment of the institution's mission and contributes to more effective risk management" (pg. 138).

# Reaffirmation of Accreditation Timeline

## March 2024—September 2024

All dates subject to change throughout the process

Target Date	Accreditation Process	Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)	Institutional Effectiveness Plan (IEP)
March 2024	CCR and Institutional Summary due 3/1  <i>ART Team celebration!</i>  Logistics Team Meeting	Continued promotion of QEP on campus and throughout the LSCO Community.	Budget Preparation for FY25 expenses  Begin drafting AY25 Unit Plans to ensure any budget implications are included in FY25 budget request
April 2024	Off-site review (23-26)  Logistics Team Meeting	Continue edits to QEP  Promotion of QEP at Spring Day Event	
May 2024	Review of Off-Site Report (if received in May)  (If necessary) Begin drafting Focus Report  Logistics Team Meeting	Review results of QEP Pilot  Outline model for QEP Annual Report  Refine QEP data collection system	Begin closing out AY24 Unit Plans by completing results and documenting evidence of improvement.
June 2024	Preparation for On-site review committee  Logistic Team Final Checklist		Finalize AY24 Unit Plans.
July 2024	(If necessary) Continue Focus Report  Begin preparations for on-site review	Continue drafting QEP Annual Report	AY24 Unit Plan assessment results due by 7/31
August 2024	Focus Report due 8/15  Orient OCIS partners to on-site review process	QEP Annual Report due 8/15  Continue QEP Pilot for Fall semester  QEP Newsletter— Internal promotion of QEP to faculty, staff, and students	
September 2024	Coordinate final details and arrangements for on-site review  Respond to requests for additional information from chair of on-site review committee	QEP Newsletter— Internal promotion of QEP to faculty, staff, and students	New academic year (AY25) begins— Administrative and Educational Outcome Assessment Plans are implemented