

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCIES

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(LOCAL)

~~The College District shall maintain accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC accredits the entire institution and its programs and services, wherever they are located and however they are delivered.~~

~~The College District shall notify SACSCOC in a timely fashion regarding any changes in accordance with the current substantive change policy of SACSCOC, and where and when required, shall seek approval prior to the initiation of changes. Responsibility for notifying SACSCOC of substantive changes shall reside with the College Accreditation Liaison.~~

~~Substantive changes that are a result of program expansion or creation have also been identified as changes requiring the review and approval of the College District Curriculum Committee and the Coordinating Board. The College Accreditation Liaison shall be a member of the College District Curriculum Committee; therefore, an action item shall be identified to include this task with a report to the committee upon completion.~~

Accreditation

Laredo College shall maintain institutional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), which accredits the entire institution and all of its programs and services.

Substantive Changes

The College District shall maintain a policy and procedure to ensure that all substantive changes, as defined by SACSCOC, are reported in accordance with the Commission's Substantive Change Policy and Procedures. When required, the College shall seek prior approval before implementing any substantive change.

Substantive changes include, but are not limited to:

- Changes to the institution's mission or objectives
- Changes in legal status, ownership, or control
- New programs or credentials representing a significant departure
- New degree levels offered
- Distance education or method of delivery changes
- New or relocated instructional sites offering 25% or more of a program
- Closures of programs, campuses, or sites

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- Joint or dual degree programs
- Contractual agreements involving third-party entities delivering 25% or more of a program

Responsibility

The Accreditation Liaison is responsible for coordinating all substantive change submissions to SACSCOC. Institutional compliance with substantive change policy is a shared responsibility of all departments and divisions proposing new or revised academic or operational structures.

Approval

Substantive changes shall not be implemented until the College has received written acknowledgment or approval from SACSCOC, as applicable. This policy shall be published and accessible to all relevant stakeholders and enforced through institutional planning, curriculum, and operational review processes.