SACS COC and Graduate Education
Maurice Eftink
Associate Provost Emeritus, University of Mississippi

Assessment & Reaccreditation Perils – Compliance Issues
Deborah Driscoll
VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, Lynchburg College
Accreditation

Vaccination

Be good for another 10 years?
SACS COC and Graduate Education

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Associate Provost Emeritus
University of Mississippi
• SACSCOC Principles Being Reviewed

• Several Relevant to Graduate Education

Current standards

Proposed standards
3.6 **Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Programs**

3.6.1 The institution’s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, master’s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than its undergraduate programs. **(Postbaccalaureate program rigor)**

3.6.2 The institution structures its graduate curricula (1) to include knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (2) to ensure ongoing student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences. **(Graduate curriculum)**

3.6.3 At least one-third of credits toward a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. **(Institutional credits for a graduate degree)**

3.6.4 The institution defines and publishes requirements for its graduate and post-baccalaureate professional programs. These requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs. **(Post-baccalaureate program requirements)**
30. Post-baccalaureate professional degree programs and graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs, and are structured (1) to include knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (2) to ensure ongoing engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training. *(Post-baccalaureate rigor and curriculum)*

28. At least one-third of the credit hours required for a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. *(Institutional credits for a graduate / professional degree)*

31. The institution publishes requirements for its undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate professional programs, as applicable. The requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs. *(Program requirements)*
16. For each of its educational programs, the institution (a) employs a sufficient number of full-time, terminally qualified faculty members to ensure program quality and integrity, including curriculum development and services, and (b) assigns responsibility for program coordination. (Faculty responsibilities)

2.8 The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution and to ensure the quality and integrity of each of its academic programs. (Faculty)

3.4.11 For each major in a degree program, the institution assigns responsibility for program coordination, as well as for curriculum development and review, to persons academically qualified in the field. In those degree programs for which the institution does not identify a major, this requirement applies to a curricular area or concentration. (Academic program coordination)
Standards to be deleted or changed in emphasis:

3.3.1 The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas:

(Institutional Effectiveness)

3.3.1.1 educational programs, to include student learning outcomes
3.3.1.2 administrative support services
3.3.1.3 academic and student support services
3.3.1.4 research within its mission, if appropriate
3.3.1.5 community/public service within its mission, if appropriate

Proposed to be removed from 3.3.1 Institutional Effectiveness and to become part of Institutional Planning (previous 2.5)
3.2.14 The institution’s policies are clear concerning ownership of materials, compensation, copyright issues, and the use of revenue derived from the creation and production of all intellectual property. These policies apply to students, faculty, and staff. *(Intellectual property rights)*

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Proposed to be deleted as separate standard and included under standard about educational policies.
3.7.1 The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, an institution gives primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including, as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards, continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty. *(See Commission guidelines “Faculty Credentials.”)* *(Faculty competence)*

14. The institution employs faculty members with credentials and experience needed to ensure the quality and integrity of its educational programs. The institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty. *(Qualified faculty)*
38. The institution ensures the quality of educational programs/courses offered through cooperative academic arrangements whether the courses are taught by the institution, transferred in from a domestic or an international institution, taught elsewhere or transcripted as the institution’s own. The institution provides the Commission with signed copies of the cooperative academic agreement, and periodically evaluates the relationship and/or agreement. Cooperative academic arrangements include consortia relationships, contractual agreements, dual enrollment programs, and agreements involving school of record, study-abroad, cross-registration, credit by examination, and experiential learning. (Cooperative academic arrangements)
Essentially unchanged, and relevant to graduate education:

3.4.1 The institution demonstrates that each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is approved by the faculty and the administration. *(Academic program approval)*

3.4.3 The institution publishes admissions policies that are consistent with its mission. *(Admissions policies)*

3.4.6 The institution employs sound and acceptable practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery. *(Practices for awarding credit)*

3.4.5 The institution publishes academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice. These policies are disseminated to students, faculty, and other interested parties through publications that accurately represent the programs and services of the institution. *(Academic policies)*

3.4.10 The institution places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty. *(Responsibility for curriculum)*
34. An institution that offers distance or correspondence education:

a. demonstrates that the student who registers in a distance or correspondence education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the credit by verifying the identity of a student who participates in class or coursework by using, at the option of the institution, methods such as (a) a secure login and pass code, (b) proctored examinations, or (c) new or other technologies and practices that are effective in verifying student identification.

b. has a written procedure for protecting the privacy of students enrolled in distance and correspondence education courses or programs.

c. has a written procedure distributed at the time of registration or enrollment that notifies students of any projected additional student charges associated with verification of student identity.

(Distance and correspondence education)

61. The institution incorporates an analysis of its distance learning programs, branch campuses, and off-campus instructional sites in all of its SACSCOC reviews. (Institutional reviews)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of</th>
<th>Require TOEFL/IELTS</th>
<th>Require GRE/GMAT</th>
<th>Require at least 30 hours for Masters</th>
<th>Require &gt;64 hours for PhD</th>
<th>PhD Time to Degree</th>
<th>Concept of Candidacy</th>
<th>Require Final Oral/Written Exam for Masters and Doctoral</th>
<th>GPA/Probation Rules</th>
<th>GPA for Full-Standing Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5 years max to reach candidacy, with 4 years after candidacy</td>
<td>Comprehensive exam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or all coursework; conditional admission for GPA of 3.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Candidacy within 6 years. A dissertation to complete after candidacy</td>
<td>Preliminary exam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Undergraduate GPA of 3.15 or all coursework; 3.0 on graduate work or acceptable test scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7 years with exceptions for specific programs.</td>
<td>Preliminary exam and prospectus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Academic warning for students who fall below B average after earning 12 semester hours, 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Undergraduate GPA of 3.5 overall, 3.0 on last 40 hours or 3.0 on other graduate degree. PLUS a minimum score of 500 GRE, 500 MAT, or 150 GMAT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Yes or 4.0 GRE, 4.5 GMAT on Analytical Writing</td>
<td>or MAT</td>
<td>Or 248 hours plus thesis</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>7 years.</td>
<td>Candidacy exam.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probability for students with a GPA below 2.95, 2.85 to earn Masters, 3.0 for Ph.D.</td>
<td>Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on last 48 hours. OR Confirmation of a preliminary graduate degree in a professional degree from a regionally accredited institution, and a score on a standardized test of 150 or higher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5 years after entrance into candidacy</td>
<td>Preliminary exam</td>
<td>May be required for Masters</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>3.0 on upper division coursework. OR Graduate degree and completion of degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, or MAT</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40 for a few programs but the majority are &gt;54</td>
<td>Comprehensive exam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probability for GPA below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Must be ranked top half of undergraduate class. Must be ranked top half of undergraduate class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, unless applicant has previously earned a degree.</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>28 pre-candidacy, 0 hours dissertation.</td>
<td>5 years to qualifying exam, and 5 years after exam</td>
<td>Qualifying exam.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>After 12 hours must have 3.0 GPA, 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>2.75 on undergraduate work, 3.0 on graduate work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, except for the MS and Ph.D. in Economics.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7 years.</td>
<td>General exam.</td>
<td>Yes for most programs.</td>
<td>Probation below 3.0, 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>3.0 undergraduate GPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Require at least three academic years beyond bachelor's. No specific course hour requirements.</td>
<td>6 years.</td>
<td>Comprehensive exam, and dissertation topic approved.</td>
<td>Yes for most programs.</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance is below B average; B average to graduate.</td>
<td>Ununsatisfactory performance is below B average; B average to graduate.</td>
<td>2.75 on last two years of undergraduate coursework; 3.0 on 24 or more graduate hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>6 years.</td>
<td>Doctoral exams and prospectus.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No probation. If unsatisfactory, a U. May appeal for reinstatement</td>
<td>3.0 on undergraduate coursework.</td>
<td>3.0 on upper division coursework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5 years after qualifying exam.</td>
<td>Qualifying exam and approved program of study.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>Department discretion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 year to comprehensive and 8 years overall.</td>
<td>Comprehensive exam.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Compeletion of 9 hours must have a GPA of 3.0. Must have 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>2.7 overall or 3.0 during the senior year.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas at Austin</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6 years for admission to candidacy, or 4 years for applications and exams.</td>
<td>Approved program of work, any of the above.</td>
<td>Not specified for Masters</td>
<td>Probability for a semester below 3.0; 3.0 to graduate.</td>
<td>3.0 on Junior and Senior years.</td>
<td>3.0 on Junior and Senior years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>