14.4 The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions. (See SACSCOC policy Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies.) *(Representation to other agencies)*

Rationale and Notes

An institution is responsible for representing accurately to the public its status and relationship with SACSCOC; reporting accurately to the public its status with the state or federal government if receiving funding from either or both; maintaining openness in all accreditation-related activities; ensuring the availability of institutional policies to students and the public; and publishing appropriate information with respect to student achievement. SACSCOC's philosophy of accreditation precludes removal from or denial of membership or candidacy to a degree-granting institution of higher education on any ground other than an institution's failure to meet the standards of membership as determined by the professional judgment of peer reviewers, or failure to comply with SACSCOC policies and procedures.

The SACSOC policy Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies includes the following as an "Institutional Responsibility":

> SACSCOC requires candidate and member institutions holding accredited or candidacy (pre-accredited) status from more than one U.S. Department of Education–recognized institutional accrediting agency to keep each agency apprised of any change in its status with one or another agency. Any institution seeking or holding accreditation from more than one USDE-recognized institutional accrediting agency must represent itself accurately to each agency with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents, and must keep each USDOE recognized accrediting body, including SACSCOC, apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting agency.

The phrase "must describe itself in identical terms" is generally most problematic for institutions with multiple sites and branch campuses, as well as institutions that have undergone mergers, consolidations, or a change in governance. Evidence for compliance might include the website listings of other accreditors from their directories of accredited institutions, where institutional details should be consistent with those given to SACSCOC, especially as they appear in the SACSCOC member directory at www.sacscoc.org. Another source of evidence could be excerpts for self-studies prepared for accreditation visits/actions by these other accrediting bodies.

> ***NOTE***
>
> *The SACSCOC policy makes clear that this applies to all USDOE accreditors, including national and specialized accrediting agencies. A list of such accreditors can be found on the USDOE website. At the time of the writing of this* Manual*, the link is at https://ope.ed.gov/*

accreditation/Agencies.aspx. This site itself will have a listing for each accredited institution, and a PDF of the USDOE site's accreditation information on the institution is another good source of documentation.

Questions to Consider

- For institutions with multiple sites, is the institutional identity clear across accreditors?
- Does the institution have a policy or procedure to ensure other accreditors are notified when a change in status occurs, including voluntary withdrawal from accreditation?
- Who is responsible for ensuring this notification occurs?

Sample Documentation

- Excerpts from reports prepared for other accreditors or reports by other accreditors.
- Screenshots and printouts on the institution from accreditor websites and directories.
- Printout from the USDOE accreditation database.
- Copies of letters mailed to SACSCOC notifying of a change in accreditor status (and any letter received in return).

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

SACSCOC document: Institutional Summary Form Prepared for SACSCOC Reviews

SACSCOC policy: Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies

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

None noted.

14.5 The institution complies with SACSCOC policy statements that pertain to new or additional institutional obligations that may arise that are not part of the standards in the current *Principles of Accreditation*.

(Policy compliance)

(Note: For applicable policies, institutions should refer to the SACSCOC website: www.sacscoc.org)

Rationale and Notes

An institution is responsible for representing accurately to the public its status and relationship with SACSCOC; reporting accurately to the public its status with the state or federal government if receiving funding from either or both; maintaining openness in all accreditation-related activities; ensuring the availability of institutional policies to students and the public; and publishing