

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Policy # 1.011

Title: ACCREDITATION

Authority: Board Action

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INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

To ensure recognition by the United States Department of Education and to facilitate the transfer of courses among postsecondary institutions with regional accreditation and/or, where appropriate, with Council on Occupational Education (COE) membership, all LCTCS institutions shall maintain accreditation with the regional accrediting agency appropriate for the programs offered and the students in the community in which it serves. LCTCS colleges must notify the LCTCS of any accreditation actions taken by the accrediting bodies.

Community and Technical Colleges

As defined, consistent with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition, each LCTCS community college offers programs leading to associate degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates. Similarly, a community college is defined as any postsecondary institution which offers an associate academic degree as well as vocational-technical and other educational programs, but which is not approved to offer a baccalaureate degree (Act 151, First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, 1998). These institutions often cooperate with other colleges to transfer credit hours earned at the LCTCS institution (including general education coursework). To ensure recognition by the United States Department of Education, LCTCS community colleges shall maintain full accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) (LA RS 17: 3164, Common Course Numbering System). New and emerging community colleges shall apply for candidacy as soon as they become eligible for such candidacy.

As defined, consistent with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition, each LCTCS technical college institution offers occupational training programs featuring hands-on experiences related to future career interests, typically leading to technical certificates, diplomas, and applied associate degrees. To ensure recognition by the United States Department of Education, each LCTCS technical college shall maintain full accreditation with the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

Community and Technical Colleges

Programs at each of the community and technical colleges shall seek and maintain programmatic accreditation for each program area deemed as either mandated, recommended, or optional by the Board of Regents. Vocational, technical, and/or occupational programs offered by the community and technical colleges shall also maintain programmatic accreditation as established by national/regional industry driven standards required by the LCTCS Board of Supervisors and/or the Board of Regents.

Note:

1. The LCTCS Board of Supervisors will continue to recommend, industry and programmatic accreditation and programmatic standards in keeping with standards established by the Board of Regents and industry
https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic_Affairs/AA-2-13-Accrediting-Bodies-Codes-2016-0428.pdf
2. Master listing of Approved Academic Program Accrediting Agencies & Required Regents' Policy https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic_Affairs/AA-2-13-Accrediting-Bodies-Codes-2016-0428.pdf

ACCREDITATION VISITS AND ACTIONS

Accreditation Visits

Each institution shall report scheduled accreditation visits that require Board of Supervisors attendance to the System Board Coordinator as soon as the visit is scheduled, however no later than thirty days prior to scheduled visit to ensure the Board of Supervisor's participation.

Accreditation Actions

An institution must report all disciplinary actions, such as warning, probation, or withdrawal of accredited status, and a brief explanation of the conditions and/or deficiencies that resulted in the action to LCTCS upon receipt of the official notification of the action by the agency. The institution must submit a copy of the institution's response to the report regarding disciplinary action of an accrediting agency, along with a copy of the original report of the agency.