

Part I

An Overview of Accreditation and Reaffirmation



Benefits for the Institution

- ❑ Enhance student learning
- ❑ Provide the opportunity for campus-wide conversations about critical issues
- ❑ Determine compliance with standards of good practice
- ❑ Enhance external status of the institution



Documents of the Accreditation Process

- ❑ The Principles of Accreditation:
Foundations for Quality Enhancement
- ❑ Compliance Certification
- ❑ The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
- ❑ Institutional Profiles
- ❑ The Focused Report



Steps in the Reaffirmation Process

1. Four members of the Leadership Team attends a one day orientation session in Atlanta.
2. Prepare and submit the Compliance Certification.
3. The Off-Site Review Committee will review the Compliance Certification.
4. The Commission (SACS) will report a summary of the findings of the Off-Site Review Committee to the College. The College may submit a Focused Report in response to the committee findings if we choose to do so. This is OPTIONAL.



Steps in the Reaffirmation Process

5. Submit the Quality Enhancement Plan to the Commission.
6. On-Site Review Committee visits the College.
7. The College prepares a response to the On-Site Committee's report and submits to the Commission.
8. The Commission reviews the findings and takes action on reaffirmation.



The Role of the Review Committees

There are two committees:

- ❑ Off-Site Review - assesses our institutional compliance
- ❑ On-Site Review - assesses if we are in compliance with Core Requirement 12, the QEP and addresses any concerns of non-compliance identified by the Off-Site Review Committee.



The Core Leadership Team

- ❑ College President
- ❑ Academic Vice-President
- ❑ Faculty Representative
- ❑ Dean of Planning & Development/
Accreditation Liaison



The Core Leadership Team Responsibilities

- ❑ Work with SACS member
- ❑ Direct process
- ❑ Oversee compliance review
- ❑ Develop Focus Report
- ❑ Oversee QEP
- ❑ Ensure engagement
- ❑ Oversee on-site arrangements
- ❑ Monitor progress




On-Site Review Team

- Minimum of seven members representing:
 - Faculty
 - Educational Programs
 - Student Learning
 - Student Support Services
 - Institutional Effectiveness
 - Quality Enhancement Plan (2)
 - Chair



Areas reviewed will be those the Off-Site Team deems:

- ❑ Non-compliance
- ❑ Not able to determine compliance
- ❑ Areas not reviewed
- ❑ Also may be asked to follow up on compliance areas for particular issues such as to the extent that policies, etc. are actually carried out
- ❑ Quality Enhancement Plan



Areas reviewed will be those the Off-Site Team deems:

- All written materials and statistical data will be submitted electronically where possible.
- College's responsibility to show what we have assessed and to report and document effectiveness in improving student learning.



The Full Leadership Team

- ❑ The Core Leadership Team
- ❑ Vice-President for Finance
- ❑ Dean of Student Services
- ❑ Dean of Administration
- ❑ Dean of Continuing Education
- ❑ Dean of the Learning Resource Center
- ❑ Director of Information Technology
- ❑ Director of Academic Support and Accountability



The Role of the Commission (SACS) Staff

- ❑ Establish a positive working relationship with the College Leadership Team
- ❑ Assist with the orientation for the members of the OCtech Leadership Team
- ❑ Provide the College with information we need to complete the review process
- ❑ Prepare the Off-Site Review Committee for their assessment of the College
- ❑ Serve as liaison between the Off-Site and On-Site committees



The Role of the Commission (SACS) Staff

- ❑ Communicate the Off-Site Committee's report to the College Leadership Team
- ❑ Select, structure and advise the On-Site Committee during their visit to the College
- ❑ Continue to work with the College if SACS requires follow up activities with compliance and/or QEP issues