

Compliance Components – Business Affairs

Separate compliance components that constitute discrete issues to be addressed in developing a convincing argument for compliance in the Compliance Certification are underlined for each applicable requirement and standard. A narrative that addresses and documents some, but not all, of the compliance components is incomplete.

Suggestions: The “suggestions” provided below are guides to developing and documenting a narration that thoroughly addresses these compliance components.

Excerpts citing noncompliance: The “excerpts” are provided to assist Applicants and Candidates in identifying typical shortcomings in the narratives and documentation presented in support of an institution’s assertion of compliance; taken from reports developed by SACSCOC review committees, these excerpts are all part of some committee’s explanation of its finding of noncompliance.

Core Requirements

2.11.2 The institution has adequate physical resources to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services. (**Physical Resources**)

Suggestion: *Ensure that the narrative and documentation address all physical resources used by the institution, not just those owned by the institution.*

Comprehensive Standards

3.3 Institutional Effectiveness

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**):

Suggestion: *Cross-reference the narrative and documentation developed for CR 2.5 as appropriate. Note, however, that CR 2.5 refers to planning and evaluation for the over-all institution, while CS 3.1.1 refers to educational programs and other units at the institution.*

3.3.1.2 administrative support services

Suggestion: *Create meaningful goals/objectives, not simple “to do” lists.*

Excerpt citing noncompliance: *“Because the reviewed administrative support units did not list outcomes or intended effects of the activities facilitated by the units, it was not possible to confirm that the institution identifies expected outcomes for its administrative support units or assesses the extent to which it achieves expected outcomes.”*

3.11 Physical Resources

3.11.1 The institution exercises appropriate control over all its physical resources. (**Control of physical resources**)

- 3.11.2 The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community. **(Institutional environment)**
- 3.11.3 The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution's educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities. **(Physical facilities)**

[Notice that this standard is not precisely the same as CR 2.11.2. CR 2.11.2 focuses on "adequate" physical resources to support "the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services;" CS 3.11.2 addresses resources that "appropriately" support the "institution's educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities."]

Suggestion: Recast the CR 2.11.2 narrative about having "enough" physical resources to support the institution's mission to focus on how that sufficient array of physical resources is "right" for the institution and provides a "proper" mix of physical resources to support the educational programs, support services, and other activities. Cross-reference the documentation in CR 2.11.2, as appropriate.

Excerpt citing noncompliance: "Significant construction of new E & G space has taken place during the past decade, but when accounting for the student enrollment growth during this same period of time, the E & G space per FTE student has actually declined nearly 15%. Because this space ratio has decreased during the same period that the institution added space-intensive programs at both the master's and the doctoral level, the Committee cannot conclude from the information provided in the Compliance Certification that current facilities appropriately serve the needs of the institution's educational programs."