

Southwestern Community College

SACS Reaffirmation Process

Compliance Team – Purpose and Objectives

The philosophy and processes of the *The Principles of Accreditation* are based upon the institution's commitment to:

- Comply with Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and federal regulations
- Enhance the quality of educational programs
- Focus on student learning
- Ensure a culture of integrity in all operations
- Recognize the centrality of peer review to an effective accreditation process

The purpose of the compliance team is to conduct a *thorough, honest, forthright* self-assessment to result in a *truthful, accurate, and complete* Compliance Certification Document.

The Compliance Certification is the document completed by the institution that demonstrates its judgment of the extent of its compliance with each of the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and federal regulations as presented in the Principles of Accreditation. The Compliance Certification document is based upon the institution's internal analysis and assessment of its compliance with the requirements and standards using the documentation generated or assembled by the institution to support the conclusions that it has reached regarding its compliance. (Handbook, 2004, p. 11)

The Compliance Team will support its conclusions by adhering to following objectives:

- Make an *honest* evaluation of the evidence that the institution has to *determine* the extent of compliance with a Core Requirement, Comprehensive Standard, or federal regulation.
- Base compliance decisions on *compelling* and appropriately *documented* evidence.
- Present evidence that is a *coherent* and *focused* body of information supporting a *judgment* of compliance (not simply an amassed body of facts, information, data, or exhibits).
- Conduct all responsibilities with *integrity, objectivity, fairness, and confidentiality*.