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Creating Futures***

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## LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

**TO:** Dr. Monty Sullivan  
LCTCS President

**THROUGH:** Dr. René Cintrón  
Chief Academic Affairs Officer

**FROM:** Erica Hughes, MPA  
Manager of Educational Programs and Assessment

**SUBJECT:** Revision of LCTCS Policy #1.011 "Institutional Accreditation"

**DATE:** November 26, 2018

### **FOR BOARD APPROVAL:**

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board approve the attached revisions to LCTCS Policy #1.011 "Institutional Accreditation."

**Background:** The Accreditation Liaison Peer Group, a sub-group of the Chief Academic Officers Functional Committee, reviewed and updated LCTCS Policy #1.011 to reflect the difference between what a Community College is versus a Technical Community College as it pertains to institutional offerings as well as seeking and maintaining regional accreditation.

Since the inception of the original policy in 2001, seven institutions have transitioned their regional accrediting status from the Council on Education (COE) to the Southern Association of Colleges' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**History of Prior Action:** The original policy was approved March 14, 2001.

**Benefits to the System:** If approved, revisions to Policy #1.011 will continue to assure that each institution maintains accreditation and encourage the remaining COE accredited institutions to seek SACSCOC accreditation in an effort to expand program offerings to the communities in which they serve.

  
**Approved for Recommendation to the Board**  
**Dr. Monty Sullivan**

12-12-18

**Date**

**APPROVED**  
  
12/12/18  
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM  
Policy # 1.011

Title: INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Authority: Board Action

Original Adoption: 03/14/2001

Effective Date: 03/14/2001

Last Revision: Initial

To ensure recognition by the United States Department of Education and to facilitate the transfer of courses among between postsecondary institutions with regional accreditation and/or, where appropriate, with Council on Occupational Education (COE) membership accredited by the same regional accrediting agency, 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.

Community Colleges

As defined Consistent with the by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition, each LCTCS community colleges offers community college 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 vocationaltechnical 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 and the transferability of courses between postsecondary institutions in the state, LCTCS community colleges shall maintain full accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges' Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) (Act 151, First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, 1998) (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.

Consistent with SACSCOC Policy and the Principles of Accreditation, each SACSCOC accredited institution is expected to (i) be accurate in reporting to the public its status with SACSCOC, (ii) publish the name, address, and phone number of its primary accreditors in its official publications, (iii) represent itself accurately to all regional, nationally recognized, and specialized accrediting agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education, and (iv) inform those agencies of any changes of accreditation status.

Louisiana Technical Colleges

Commented [1]: Should the mention of accreditation here be more broad? It seems like an introduction paragraph leading to policy about SACSCOC and COE accredited institutions. COE is not a regional accreditor.

Commented [2]: I agree with Daniel here. I made some corrections to try to reflect the difference and acceptance of both.

Commented [3]: The "Community College" / "Louisiana Technical College" distinction is not clear to me: does "Louisiana Technical College" still exist? Suggestion: maintain two sections, but rename them "SACSCOC -Accredited Institutions" and "COE Accredited Institutions", OR, eliminate the distinct sections and just describe the two accrediting bodies and the expectations of attaining and retaining accreditation or other general feature. See the paragraph inserted below on SACSCOC policy and principle.

Commented [4]: Act 151, First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature: §3301, Organization of postsecondary systems: "...the Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall be comprised of two divisions, the vocational-technical division which shall include all public postsecondary vocationaltechnical schools and the community college division which shall include the community colleges in the system." Thus the policy should have two headings: Community Colleges and Technical Colleges - yes?

Commented [5]: On behalf of Daniel Roberts, please consider removing this statement with the following rationale: "Although I do not believe the intent was to segregate transfer between SACSCOC institutions and non-SACSCOC institutions in the policy, I feel there is room for misinterpretation with how transfer is described in the policy. SACSCOC does not require institutions to be regionally accredited for transfer of coursework."

Commented [6]: SACSCOC accredits institutions awarding associate and higher degrees. Commented [7]: Remove hyphen

Commented [8]: There is only one reference to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and it pertains specifically to South Louisiana Community College (§3223).

Commented [9]: What does "eligible" mean here?

Commented [10]: Is there really a reason to have this paragraph in this policy?



As defined, Consistent with the by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition, each Each LCTCS technical colleges institution offersssing 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, eEach LCTCS technical colleges shall Each campus of the Louisiana Technical College (LTC) shall maintain full accreditation with the Council on Occupational Education (COE) (Act 151, First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, 1998), in cooperation with and as coordinated by the LTC Chancellor.

**Commented [11]:** From COE website, History: "Its current scope of recognition is as a national institutional accrediting agency for the accreditation of non-degree-granting and applied associate degree-granting postsecondary occupational education institutions."

Consistent with the obligations of COE-affiliated institutions, each institution must (i) be accurate in reporting its status with the Commission to the public, and (ii) publish the name, address, and phone number of COE in its official publications.

**Commented [12]:** The Act cited is devoid of reference to the Council on Occupational Education. The references to accreditation in Act 151 apply only to proprietary schools.

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COE-aAccredited institutions in LCTCS:

**Commented [13]:** Is there really a reason to have this paragraph in this policy?

- ~~Central Louisiana Technical Community College (AAS: Criminal Justice, Technical Studies, Business Office Administration)~~
- ~~Northshore Technical Community College (AAS programs: Information Technology, Culinary Arts & Occupations, Care & Development of Young Children, Criminal Justice, Journeyman Industrial/Pipetrades, Journeyman Industrial/Electrician, Automotive Technology, Technical Studies, Veterinary Technology, Business Office Administration; also offers the Associate of General Studies.~~
- ~~Northwest Louisiana Technical College (AAS programs: Culinary Arts & Occupations, Industrial Instrumentation Tech, Technical Studies, Business Office Administration)~~
- ~~South Central Louisiana Technical College (AAS programs: Process Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Surgical Technology, Business Office Administration)~~

**Commented [14]:** Don't list programs. You would need to update this policy every time a program is added or deleted.

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Note:

**Commented [15]:** I would recommend not listing specific programs in this policy. They change from time to time, and we wouldn't want to keep updating this policy.

1. ~~SACS/COC and COE requires institutional accreditation with specific recognition of each site, branch, center, etc.~~
2. ~~COE mandates campus-level accreditation within the Louisiana Technical College.~~
3. ~~The Louisiana Board of Regents requires programmatic accreditation as described in Academic Affairs policy 2.13, Programmatic Accreditation.~~
4. ~~The LCTCS Board of Supervisors has established, and will continue to recommend, industry and programmatic accreditation and programmatic standards.~~

**Commented [16]:** There is no SCLTC anymore

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**Commented [17]:** Question for all: are these or any notes necessary?

# LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

## Policy # 1.011

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### Title: INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

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Authority: Board Action

Original Adoption: 03/14/2001

Effective Date: 03/14/2001

Last Revision: Initial

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