

# LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

## Policy # 1.011

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### **Title: ACCREDITATION**

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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 accredited postsecondary institutions, all LCTCS institutions shall maintain institutional accreditation with an accrediting agency appropriate for the programs offered and the students in the community it serves.

All LCTCS community colleges offer programs leading to associate degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates. The mission of all LCTCS colleges includes the associate academic degree as well as vocational-technical and other educational programs, but do not 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 the transferability of courses, recognition by the United States Department of Education, and the ability to offer programs relevant to the mission of a community college, all LCTCS community colleges shall maintain accreditation with an accreditor recognized to accredit transferable associate degree-granting institutions of higher education. The LCTCS Board of Supervisors has determined that the institutional accreditor that best serves the mission of the colleges in the LCTCS is the Southern Association of Colleges' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Therefore, all colleges shall maintain accreditation with SACSCOC. New and emerging community colleges shall apply for candidacy as soon as they become eligible for such candidacy. Institutions currently accredited by Council on Occupational Education (COE) shall maintain accreditation with COE until they transition to SACSCOC. LCTCS colleges must notify LCTCS of any accreditation actions taken by their institutional accreditor.

### **PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION**

Programs at each of the community colleges shall seek and maintain programmatic accreditation for each program mandated by the Board of Regents. Colleges are encouraged to seek programmatic accreditations that are deemed recommended or optional by the Board of Regents.

Vocational, technical, and/or occupational programs offered by the community colleges shall also maintain programmatic accreditation, as established by national/ regional industry-driven standards, required by the LCTCS Board of Supervisors. LCTCS colleges must notify the LCTCS if there is a change in the status of a required programmatic accreditor.

**Note:**

Board of Regents' Master Listing of Approved Academic Program Accrediting Agencies & Required Regents' Policy [https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic\\_Affairs/AA-2https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic\\_Affairs/AA-2-13-Accrediting-Bodies-Codes-2016-0428.pdf](https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic_Affairs/AA-2https://regents.state.la.us/assets/docs/PRAA/Academic_Affairs/AA-2-13-Accrediting-Bodies-Codes-2016-0428.pdf)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 the scheduled visit to ensure the Board of Supervisors' 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.