

Significant Change in Program Length: What to Provide SACSCOC

Webinar Handout – October 16, 2019

Decrease in program length

A significant decrease in program length and/or credit hours is a substantive change requiring review and approval by the Board of Trustees. The institution should provide the following information to the Commission:

- a description of the program,
- the rationale for the decrease,
- a ‘before’ and ‘after’ comparison of the curricula,
- the change in student learning outcomes,
- an analysis of the impact of the change in student learning outcomes,
- an explanation of how program quality and integrity are maintained with fewer credit hours and/or a shorter time-to-completion, and
- an explanation of the impact on staffing and faculty workloads.

Increase in program length

A significant increase in program length and/or credit hours is a substantive change requiring review and approval by the Board of Trustees. The institution should provide the following information to the Commission:

- a description of the program,
- the rationale for the increase,
- a ‘before’ and ‘after’ comparison of the curricula,
- the change in student learning outcomes,
- an analysis of the impact of the change in student learning outcomes,
- an explanation of the impact on students’ time-to-completion,
- an explanation of the financial impact to students, and
- an explanation of the impact on staffing and faculty workloads.



Reminders:

- Significant changes in program length (increase or decrease) require approval by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.
- There is no substantive change fee assessed.