

# Criterion 2: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

SCC maintains accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission through a process of external quality review to ensure the College meets established standards.

## What is accreditation?

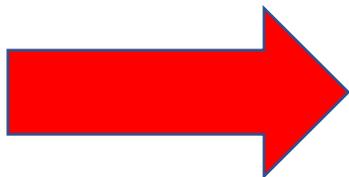
- A process of external quality review to ensure that a college or university **meets established standards**.
- Involves a **comprehensive evaluation** on how the college is meeting standards and a **review of the college** by trained peer reviewers who evaluate the college's efforts at maintaining standards.
- Accreditation is carried out through private, nonprofit organizations designed for this specific purpose.
- **Accreditation is required** in order for students to gain access to federal funds including student grants and loans. Non-accredited institutions are not eligible for federal financial aid.

So now that we know what accreditation is, why does SCC maintain accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission?  
Why is that important to us?

# OPEN PATHWAY 10-YEAR CYCLE

## Transition Map for Institutions with PEAQ Reaffirmation Visits in 2012-13

Cycle Year	Institutional Activities		Peer Review	HLC Decision-Making <sup>1</sup>
2012-13	PEAQ Visit			
2013-14 Year 1	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File			
2014-15 Year 2				
2015-16 Year 3				
2016-17 Year 4	Submit Assurance Filing (Assurance Argument and Evidence File) <sup>2</sup>		Conduct Assurance Review (no visit) <sup>3</sup>	Acceptance of Assurance Review <sup>4</sup>
2017-18 Year 5	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File	Period to submit Quality Initiative Proposal	Review Quality Initiative Proposal	
2018-19 Year 6				
2019-20 Year 7		Period to submit Quality Initiative Report	Review Quality Initiative Report	
2020-21 Year 8				
2021-22 Year 9				
2022-23 Year 10	Submit Comprehensive Evaluation Materials <sup>5</sup>		Conduct Comprehensive Evaluation (with visit)	Action on Comprehensive Evaluation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation <sup>6</sup>



# Save the Date!!!

**SCC's 10-year comprehensive  
evaluation is April 24-26, 2023**

# HLC's Criteria for Accreditation

## Five Criterion and 18 Core Components

- I. Mission
- II. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- III. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
- IV. Teaching and learning: Evaluation and Improvement
- V. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning

## **Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct:**

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

**2.A. The institution establishes and follows policies and processes to ensure fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty and staff.**

- 1.The institution develops and the governing board adopts the mission.
- 2.The institution **operates with integrity** in its financial, academic, human resources and auxiliary functions.

**2.B.** The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public.

1. The institution ensures the **accuracy** of any representations it makes regarding **academic offerings, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, governance structure and accreditation relationships.**
2. The institution ensures **evidence is available to support any claims it makes** regarding its contributions to the educational experience through research, **community engagement, experiential learning,** religious or spiritual purpose and **economic development.**

**2.C.** The governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution's integrity.

1. The **governing board is trained and knowledgeable** so that it makes **informed decisions** with respect to the institution's **financial and academic policies and practices**; the board meets its **legal and fiduciary responsibilities**.
2. The **governing board's deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution**.
3. The governing board reviews the reasonable and relevant interests of the institution's **internal and external constituencies during its decision-making deliberations**.

**2.C.** The governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution's integrity.

4. The governing board **preserves its independence from undue influence** on the part of donors, elected officials, ownership interests or other external parties.

5. The **governing board delegates day-to-day management of the institution to the institution's administration** and expects the institution's **faculty to oversee academic matters.**

2.D. The institution is committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

2.E. The institution's policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, staff and students

1. Institutions supporting basic and applied research maintain **professional standards and provide oversight** ensuring regulatory compliance, ethical behavior and fiscal accountability.
2. The institution provides **effective support services** to ensure the **integrity of research and scholarly practice** conducted by its faculty, staff and students.
3. The institution provides **students guidance in the ethics of research and use of information resources**.
4. The institution **enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity**.

**How you can support the  
College's preparations!**

1. Read the monthly newsletters and complete the Passport Challenges.
2. Encourage your coworkers/teams to read the monthly newsletters and complete the Passport Challenges.
3. Check out [sccaccreditation.com](http://sccaccreditation.com)

# Questions?



**Southeast**

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