CORE REQUIREMENTS

2.11.1 The institution has a **sound financial base** and **demonstrated financial stability** to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services.

The member institution provides the following financial statements: (1) an institutional **audit** (or Standard Review Report issued in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the AICPA for those institutions audited as part of a system-wide or statewide audit) and written institutional **management letter** for the most recent fiscal year prepared by an independent certified public accountant and/or an appropriate governmental auditing agency employing the appropriate audit (or Standard Review Report) guide; (2) a **statement of financial position of unrestricted net assets, exclusive of plant assets and plant-related debt**, which represents the change in unrestricted net assets attributable to operations for the most recent year; and (3) an **annual budget** that is preceded by **sound planning**, is subject to **sound fiscal procedures**, and is **approved by the governing board**.

Audit requirements for applicant institutions may be found in the Commission policy “Accreditation Procedures for Applicant Institutions.” (Financial Resources)

2.11.2 The institution has adequate physical resources to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services. (Physical Resources)

2.12 The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that includes an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution. (Quality Enhancement Plan)

(Note: This requirement is not addressed by the institution in its Compliance Certification.)

COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS

3.2.9 The institution publishes policies regarding appointment, employment, and evaluation of all personnel. (Personnel appointment)

3.2.10 The institution periodically evaluates the effectiveness of its administrators. (Administrative staff evaluations)

3.2.11 The institution’s chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over, the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program. (Control of intercollegiate athletics)

3.2.12 The institution demonstrates that its chief executive officer controls the institution’s fund-raising activities. (Fund-raising activities)

3.2.13 For any entity organized separately from the institution and formed primarily for the purpose of supporting the institution or its programs, (1) the legal authority and operating control of the institution is clearly defined with respect to that entity; (2) the relationship of that entity to the institution and the extent of any liability arising out of that relationship is clearly described in a formal, written manner; and (3) the institution demonstrates that (a) the chief executive officer controls any fund-raising activities of that entity or (b) the fund-raising activities of that entity are defined in a formal, written manner which assures that those activities further the mission of the institution. (Institution-related entities)
3.2.14 The institution’s policies are clear concerning ownership of materials, compensation, copyright issues, and the use of revenue derived from the creation and production of all intellectual property. These policies apply to students, faculty, and staff. (Intellectual property rights)

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

3.3.2 The institution has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that (1) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP; (2) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and (3) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement. (Quality Enhancement Plan)
(Note: This requirement is not addressed by the institution in its Compliance Certification.)

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

3.10.1 The institution’s recent financial history demonstrates financial stability. (Financial stability)

3.10.2 The institution audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations. (Financial aid audits)

3.10.3 The institution exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources. (Control of finances)

3.10.4 The institution maintains financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs. (Control of sponsored research/external funds)

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

3.11.1 The institution exercises appropriate control over all its physical resources. (Control of physical resources)

3.11.2 The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community. (Institutional environment)

*3.11.3 The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and other mission related activities. (Physical facilities)

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

*4.3 The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, and refund policies. (Publication of policies)

*4.5 The institution has adequate procedures for addressing written student complaints and is responsible for demonstrating that it follows those procedures when resolving student complaints. (See Commission policy “Complaint Procedures against the Commission or its Accredited Institutions.”) (Student complaints)

*4.7 The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended. (In reviewing the institution’s compliance with these program responsibilities, the Commission relies on documentation forwarded to it by the U.S. Department of Education.) (Title IV program responsibilities)

* These standards will be reviewed by the on-site committee even if the off-site has determined compliance. They will also be reviewed at the fifth-year interim review.

The fifth-year interim report also requests information on the relationship of the institution to the U.S. Department of Education (item number 5, Institutional Information), which may require business officer input.

For the full text of the Principles of Accreditation go to www.sacscoc.org.