An institution is denied reaffirmation upon recommendation of the Committee on Compliance and Reports and subsequent action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees that, during its decennial review, the institution (1) has failed to comply with any of the Core Requirements, (2) demonstrates significant noncompliance with the Comprehensive Standards or Federal Requirements, or (3) does not comply with SACSCOC policies. Denial of reaffirmation is accompanied by a sanction. [Further information is available in Commission policy “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership” at www.sacscoc.org.] Denial of Reaffirmation is not an appealable action. [See The Handbook for Institutions Seeking Initial Accreditation, available at www.sacscoc.org.]

In conjunction with the federal definition, SACSCOC defines distance education as a formal educational process in which the majority of the instruction (interaction between students and instructors and among students) in a course occurs when students and instructors are not in the same place. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous. A distance education course may use the internet; one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices; audio conferencing; or video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs if used as part of the distance learning course or program. [See Commission policy “Distance and Correspondence Education,” available at www.sacscoc.org.]

A dual educational program (or sometimes called dual enrollment), is one whereby students study at two or more institutions, and each institution awards a separate program completion credential bearing only its own name, seal and signature. [See Commission policy “Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards,” available at www.sacscoc.org.]

Member and candidate institutions pay annual dues to the Commission based on a fixed cost set by the Executive Council, plus a percentage of the institution’s full-time equivalent enrollment, plus a percentage of the E & G of an institution, if the E & G exceeds four million. Institutions are billed in April for receipt by July 1 of that same year.

An educational program is a coherent set of courses leading to a credential (degree, diploma, or certificate) awarded by the institution.

Comprised of thirteen members, the Executive Council is the executive arm of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees and functions on behalf of the Board and the College Delegate Assembly between meetings. [See Appendix G in this Manual. Further information on the composition and selection of the Executive Council and its duties is available in Commission policy “Standing Rules: the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, Executive Council, and the College Delegate Assembly” at www.sacscoc.org.]

Committee visits end with a brief meeting between the Committee and the institution’s leadership, the Exit Conference, at which time the Committee orally presents an overview of its draft report with particular emphasis on its findings of compliance/noncompliance. [See Part V of the Handbook for Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation of Accreditation.]