



I. 2.7.3 Substantive Change

Chapter 2 - General	Original Effective Date: March 2013
Section: 2.7 Academic Policies & Procedures	Date Last Reviewed: January 2026
Responsible Entity: Vice President for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs	Date Last Revised: January 2026

II. Purpose

To establish responsibilities and requirements for timely notification of substantive changes to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This policy complies with the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement and the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and Procedures.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all schools and academic programs offered at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio).

IV. Policy

- A. UT Health San Antonio's policy on substantive change requires the president or designee to notify the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) of any significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of the institution in a timely manner. The institutional designee to notify SACSCOC is the official identified by UT Health San Antonio as the SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison.

A substantive change is a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution. Substantive change includes high-impact, high-risk changes and changes that can impact the quality of educational programs and services. SACSCOC accredits an entire institution. Accreditation extends to all programs and services of an institution, wherever located and however delivered. SACSCOC does not accredit individual programs, locations, or portions of an institution. However, some new programs, locations, and other institutional changes are subject to notification and/or approval as defined in Substantive Change Policy and Procedures.

UT Health San Antonio's policy for substantive change may also require notification to a school-specific accrediting agency. The president or designee has the primary

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responsibility to notify the school-specific accrediting organization on substantive change. The respective school dean has been designated as the responsible party to notify the school-specific accrediting organization.

The notification of substantive change includes the University of Texas System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The president or the designee has the primary responsibility to notify the respective organizations.

B. Notification Provisions

Under SACSCOC policy, substantive changes, including those required by federal regulations, include institutional-level changes and program-level changes. A detailed listing of the categories of substantive changes for which SACSCOC or notification is required, is available at: <https://sacscoc.org/accrediting-standards/substantive-changes>.

V. Definitions

When used in this document, the following words have the meaning set forth below unless a different meaning is required by context.

Substantive Change – a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution. Substantive change includes high-impact, high-risk changes and changes that can impact the quality of educational programs and services.

VI. Related References

[SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and Procedures](#)

VII. Review and Approval History

The approving authority of this policy is the University Executive Committee.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Effective Date
03/2013	Policy origination		
08/2017	Policy Revision		
05/2022	Policy Revision/ moved & renumbered to new section 2.7 Academic Policies & Procedures	VPAFSA/ICPO	05/31/22
01/2026	Policy Revision/Discretionary Edit	VPAFSA/ICPO	01/08/2026