

*Principles and
Philosophy of
Accreditation*



Ralph Brown Draughon Library

Section I

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Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation

The Commission on Colleges supports the right of an institution to pursue its established educational purpose; the right of faculty members to teach, investigate and publish freely; and the right of students to have opportunities for learning. However, the exercise of these rights **must** not interfere with the overriding obligation of the institution to offer its students a sound education leading to recognized certificates or degrees.

While it cherishes the academic freedom of its faculty and students, Auburn University also accepts its obligation to provide for its students sound educational programs that lead to recognized degrees. The University strives for excellence in its academic activities. How well it succeeds in accomplishing these objectives can be fully described by the answers to the *Criteria* established by the Commission on Colleges. However, some measure of the University's success in fulfilling this obligation can be taken from the testimony of alumni. For example, in a recent survey of 1995-96 and 1996-97 baccalaureate recipients, over 95% of those responding said that if they could start over again, they would still go to college at Auburn University. On the same survey, 68% of respondents said that Auburn University gave them excellent or good preparation for employment, while over 88% said that their education at Auburn had done an excellent or good job of enhancing their general intellectual development.

Source of Information

2000-2001 Auburn University Survey of 1995-96 and 1996-97 Baccalaureate Recipients, with Documents from **Section 4.2.1**

1.1 Institutional Commitment and Responsibilities in the Accreditation Process

The effectiveness of self-regulatory accreditation depends upon an institution's acceptance of certain responsibilities, including involvement in and commitment to the accreditation process. An institution **is required** to conduct a self-study at the interval specified by the Commission and, at the conclusion of the self-study, accept an honest and forthright peer assessment of institutional strengths and weaknesses. The Commission **requires** that the self-study assess every aspect of the institution; involve personnel from all segments of the institution, including faculty, staff, students, administration and governing boards; and provide a comprehensive analysis of the institution, identifying strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the Commission **requires** an adequate institutional follow-up plan to address issues identified in the self-study.

Auburn University is in compliance.

Auburn University has been a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1922 and adheres to all of its policies and principles. As a consequence of a letter dated April 27, 2000,

from James T. Rogers, Executive Director of SACS, to William V. Muse, President of Auburn University, the University began a self study. Gerald D. Lord, Associate Executive Director of SACS, visited Auburn University in April 2001, met with the Steering Committee, and addressed the University Senate. A letter dated June 5, 2002, from James T. Rogers reassigned Jack Allen as Auburn's Commission staff representative. The Steering Committee, which has been described earlier, has submitted this Report.

Sources of Information

Documents

Letter from James Rogers to William Muse, April 27, 2000

Letter from James Rogers to William Walker, June 5, 2002

- An institution **must** be committed to participation in the activities and decisions of the Commission.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The Co-Directors of the Self Study and the Director of Assessment have attended the annual meetings of SACS, and one of the Co-Directors has attended the regional discussions on the Accreditation Review Project (Principles of Accreditation).

Auburn University is prepared to accept an honest and forthright peer assessment.

- An institution of higher education **is committed** to the search for knowledge and its dissemination. Integrity in the pursuit of knowledge **is expected** to govern the total environment of an institution. Each member institution **is responsible** for ensuring integrity in all operations dealing with its constituencies, in its relations with other member institutions, and in its accreditation activities with the Commission on Colleges. Each institution **must** provide the Commission access to all parts of its operation and to complete and accurate information about the institution's affairs, including reports of other accrediting, licensing and auditing agencies. In the spirit of collegiality, institutions **are expected** to cooperate fully during all aspects of the process of evaluation: preparations for site visits, the site visit itself, and the follow up to the site visit. Institutions **are also expected** to provide the Commission or its representatives with information requested and to maintain an atmosphere of openness and cooperation during evaluations, enabling evaluators to perform their duties with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Auburn University is in compliance.

It will provide the Commission access to all of its operations and accurate information about the institution's affairs. The University community will cooperate fully during the process of evaluation.

- Each participating institution **must** be in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the 1992 Higher Education Amendments. Failure to comply with Title IV responsibilities will be considered when an institution is reviewed for initial membership or continued accreditation. In re-

viewing an institution's compliance with these program responsibilities, the Commission will rely on documentation forwarded to it by the Secretary of Education.

Auburn University is in compliance with Title IV of the 1992 Higher Education Amendments.

Auburn University Report of Federal Awards in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133 (for the year ended September 30, 2001) and the *Official Cohort Default Rate (FY 1999, FY 1998, and FY 1997)* demonstrate this compliance. Auburn University submitted a five-year report on Title IV of the 1992 Higher Education Amendments to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1997.

Sources of Information

Documents

Auburn University Report of Federal Awards in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133

Five-year Report on Title IV

Official Cohort Default Rate (FY 1999, FY 1998, and FY 1997)

Each institution seeking candidacy, membership or reaffirmation with the Commission on Colleges **must** document its compliance with the Conditions of Eligibility as outlined in Section 1.4.

Auburn University is in compliance.

As discussed in **Section 1.4**, Auburn University complies with all the Conditions of Eligibility.

1.2 Application of the *Criteria*

An institution **must** refrain from making a substantive change, defined as a significant modification in the nature or scope of an institution or its programs, except in accordance with the Commission's "Substantive Change Policy for Accredited Institutions" and its attendant procedures. All existing or planned activities **must** be reported according to the policies, procedures and guidelines of the Commission on Colleges and **must** be in compliance with the *Criteria*.

Auburn University is in compliance.

Since its SACS reaffirmation visit in 1993, Auburn University has not made a significant modification in the nature or scope of the institution or its programs without notifying the Commission on Colleges. A detailed discussion of distance education activities is found in **Sections 4.5** and **4.6**. The most significant change that Auburn University has undertaken in the last 10 years is the transition from the Quarter System to the Semester System in fall 2000. Although such a major undertaking does not appear to fall under any of the categories listed in the Substantive Change Policy, the Coordinator of the Transition sent a letter to the institution's liaison officer, informing the Commission on Colleges of the transition. In 2001, Auburn University began the process of developing a shared first professional Doctor of Audiology degree program with Auburn University at Montgomery to be implemented in fall 2003. Upon discussing the proposal with the Commission on Colleges, the institution submitted a substantive change prospectus.

Sources of Information

Documents

Letter from Christine W. Curtis to G. Jack Allen, August 30, 1999

Letter Requesting the Prospectus from James T. Rogers to John F. Pritchett, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, January 29, 2001

Letter that Accompanied the Submission of the Prospectus from William F. Walker, Interim President to James T. Rogers, March 19, 2001

- Each institution **must** have adequate procedures for addressing written student complaints.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The Student Academic Grievance Policy and the Harrassment/Discrimination Policy are covered in the student handbook, *Tiger Cub*. Other complaints are handled either by the Department Heads or Chairs or by the respective Dean of the College or School in which the complaint originated. If no resolution is achieved at these levels, then the complaint is submitted to the Office of the Provost. Final appeals are sent to the President.

Sources of Information

Interviews

George Crandell, Former Chair of the Student Academic Grievance Committee, September 6, 2002

James G. Hardin, Student Affairs Program Advisor

John Pritchett, Interim Provost, September 6, 2002

W. Wesley Williams, Vice President for Student Affairs

Website

Tiger Cub, 91-94; 104-05

http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/tiger_cub/index.html

1.3

1.3 Separately Accredited Units

- A unit **is required** to apply for separate accreditation or to maintain separate membership if, in the judgment of the Commission, the unit exercises this level of autonomy.

Auburn University is in compliance.

Auburn University at Montgomery is a separate unit and is separately accredited.

- If an institution seeks separately accredited status for one of its units, it **must** notify the Executive Director of the Commission on Colleges of its intent and follow procedures established by the Commission. In all cases, the Commission on Colleges reserves the right to determine the accreditation status of separate units of an institution.

Auburn University is in compliance.
It is not seeking separately accredited status for any of its units.

1.4 Conditions of Eligibility

1.4

Any institution seeking candidacy must document its compliance with each of the thirteen Conditions of Eligibility to be authorized initiation of a self-study, or to be awarded candidacy or candidacy renewal. In addition, the institution must provide evidence that it is capable of complying with all requirements of the Criteria and that it will be in compliance by the end of the period allowed for candidacy.

Auburn University has been an accredited member of SACS since 1922 and is not seeking candidacy.

The Conditions of Eligibility are basic qualifications which an institution of higher education **must** meet to be accredited by the Commission on Colleges. Accredited institutions **must** also demonstrate compliance with the *Criteria for Accreditation* which holds institutions to appropriately higher standards of quality.

1. In obtaining or maintaining accreditation with the Commission on Colleges, an institution **agrees** to the following:

- a. That it will comply with the *Criteria for Accreditation* of the College Delegate Assembly consistent with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges.
- b. That the Commission on Colleges, at its discretion, may make known to any agency or member of the public requiring such information, the nature of any action, positive or negative, regarding the institution's status with the Commission.
- c. That it will comply with Commission requests, directives, decisions and policies, and will make complete, accurate and honest disclosure. Failure to do so is sufficient reason, in and of itself, for the Commission to impose a sanction, or to deny or revoke candidacy or accreditation.

Auburn University agrees to comply with the above requirements. On numerous occasions, President Walker has stated publicly that if Auburn is found to be in violation of any accreditation criteria, the institution will take whatever action is necessary to correct the deficiencies that have been found.

Sources of Information

Websites

President's Comments to the University Senate, July 12, 2001

<http://www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/612min.htm>

President's State of the University Address, October 2, 2001

<http://www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/102min.htm>

2. The institution **must** have formal authority from an appropriate government agency or agencies located within the geographic jurisdiction of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees.

Auburn University is in compliance.

By the Alabama Constitution of 1901, Auburn University is under the management of a Board of Trustees, which has authority to approve, with the consent of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the awarding of bachelors, first professional, masters, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees in approved areas.

Sources of Information

Document

Board of Trustees Policy and Procedures Manual

Websites

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

<http://www.ache.state.al.us>

Alabama Constitution of 1901

<http://alisdb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp>

Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin, 3

http://www.auburn.edu/student_bulletin/

3. The institution **must** have a governing board of at least five members, which has the authority and duty to ensure that the mission of the institution is implemented. The governing board **is** the legal body **responsible** for the institution. Evidence **must** be provided that the board is an active policy-making body for the institution. The board **is** ultimately **responsible** for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are used to provide a sound educational program. The board **must** not be controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from the board. The presiding officer of the board **must** have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution. The majority of other voting members of the board **must** have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The state of Alabama has established that Auburn University shall be under the management and control of a board of trustees (See Constitution of Alabama of 1901, Article XIV, sections 266 and 267. Section 266 of Article XIV was repealed by Amendment 161, and then at the November 7, 2000, election this was replaced by Amendment No. 670). The Constitution of Alabama says:

The board of trustees shall consist of one member from each of the congressional districts in the state as the same were constituted on the first day of January, 1961, one member from Lee County, two at-large members both of whom shall be a resident of the continental United States, the state superintendent of education serving on the date this amendatory language is ratified, who shall serve until leaving the office of superintendent, one additional at-large member who shall be a resident of the continental United States, and who shall succeed the current State

Superintendent of Education on the board of trustees immediately upon the superintendent leaving office, and the governor, who shall be ex officio president of the board.

In 1971, by executive order of the Governor, a non-voting student member from the Auburn University campus and one from Auburn University at Montgomery campus were added to the Board of Trustees. Additionally, on August 9, 2002, two non-voting faculty advisors, one from Auburn and one from AUM, were added by a unanimous vote of the Board. All of the Board of Trustees committees, except for the Executive Committee, have a non-voting member of the Auburn or AUM faculty as a member.

The minutes from meetings provide evidence that the Board of Trustees is a policy-making body and that it takes responsibility for the financial resources of the University. The presiding officer of the Board has no contractual, employment, or personal, or familial financial interest in the institution. Likewise, the majority of other voting members of the Board also have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

Although only a minority of Board members has had either direct or indirect business relationships with the University, members of the University community have expressed concerns about the potential conflicts of interest raised by those relationships. The Joint Assessment Committee (JAC), established by the Chair of the University Senate and consisting of representatives of the faculty, staff, administrative and professional employees, alumni, and students, cited such concerns in the complaint it filed with SACS in April 2001. More recently, the Board of Trustees has discussed the possible need for a more stringent conflict of interest policy to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

There is also a perception among many observers that one or more members of the Board control the operations of the body, a concern also reflected in the JAC complaint. However, in numerous public statements Board members have strongly denied such charges. These issues are currently under review by Mr. Richard Bradley, the independent investigator appointed to investigate these matters by the United States District Court in Atlanta.

Suggestion 1-1:

The Steering Committee suggests that the Board of Trustees develop a stricter conflict of interest policy relating to business dealings Board members may have with the University.

Sources of Information

Documents

Board of Trustees Policy and Procedures Manual

Joint Assessment Committee Complaint, April 2001

Minutes from the Meetings of the Board of Trustees

Website

Constitution of Alabama of 1901

<http://alisd.b.l.e.g.i.s.l.a.t.u.r.e.s.t.a.t.e.a.l.u.s/a.c.a.s/A.C.A.S.L.o.g.i.n.a.s.p>

The bylaws of the board or other legal documents **must** ensure appropriate continuity in the board membership, usually by staggered terms of adequate length. The bylaws or other legal documents **must** ensure the independence of the board. Amendment of the bylaws **must** occur only by vote of the board after reasonable deliberation.

Auburn University is in compliance.

Currently, Trustees are appointed for a period of seven years with the possibility of reappointment for a second seven-year term. These terms are staggered to ensure continuity within the Board. However, these seven-year terms were recently approved by voters in an amendment to the Constitution. Members who were previously appointed for 12-year terms are “grandfathered” into the process and will serve until their longer terms expire.

The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees address their own amending process and ensure the independence of the Board.

Source of Information

Documents

Amendment to Constitution of Alabama

Board of Trustees Policy and Procedures Manual

Website

Constitution of Alabama of 1901

<http://alisdb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp>

In the case of military institutions authorized and operated by the federal government to award degrees, the Commission recognizes the unusual responsibility of the government and the military for the ultimate legal authority of the institution. If such a military institution is prohibited by the authorizing legislation from having a board with ultimate legal authority, it **must** have a public board in which neither the presiding officer nor a majority of the other members are civilian employees of the military or active/retired military. This board, consisting of at least five members, **must** have broad and significant influence upon the institution's programs and operations. The military institution **must** demonstrate that there is appropriate continuity in the board membership and that its board, in policy and practice, is an active policy-making body for the institution. The board **must** ensure that the financial resources of the institution are used to provide a sound educational program. The board **must** not be controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from the board except as specified by the authorizing legislation. The presiding officer of the board must have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution. A majority of the other voting board members **must** have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

Auburn University is not a military institution, and these **must** statements do not pertain to it.

4. The institution **must** have a chief executive officer whose primary responsibility is to the institution. The chief executive officer **must** not be the presiding officer of the board.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees give administrative authority and responsibility to the President of the institution, currently, William F. Walker. President William Walker is not the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

Source of Information

Document

Board of Trustees Policy and Procedures Manual

5. The institution **must** be in operation and have students enrolled in degree programs at the time of the committee visit.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The University had an enrollment of 18,922 undergraduates, 728 professional students, and 2,819 graduate students for the Fall Semester of the 2001-02 academic year. When the SACS Visiting Team comes to Auburn University in March 2003, the University will be nearing the end of its Spring Semester, and therefore, the University will be in operation and have students on campus.

Sources of Information

Website

Enrollment Reports, Fall Semester 2001

http://www.panda.auburn.edu/enr_classlevel.htm

6. The institution **must** offer one or more degree programs based on at least two academic years at the associate level, at least four academic years at the baccalaureate level, or at least one academic year at the post-baccalaureate level. The institution may make arrangements for some instruction to be provided by other accredited institutions or entities through contracts or consortia. However, the institution itself **must** provide instruction for all course work required for at least one degree program at each level at which it awards degrees. Any alternative approach to meeting this requirement **must** be approved by the Commission on Colleges. In all cases, the institution **must** be able to demonstrate that it evaluates all aspects of its educational program. The institution's degree programs **must** be compatible with its stated purpose and based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. Institutions may experiment in developing and defining new fields of study, but the Commission cannot evaluate for membership an institution that offers only programs which represent fields of study that are outside of the expertise of the Commission's accredited institutions.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The University does not offer two-year associate degree programs, but it offers and itself provides all required instruction for four-year baccalaureate programs in more than 60 disciplines. It also offers and provides instruction for numerous post-baccalaureate degrees based on one or more years of study. At all degree levels, the University evaluates its educational program through assessment of student achievement in relation to the educational goals of each degree program. All degree programs offered are compatible with the institution's stated purposes and represent the broad-ranging interests of a modern research university.

Sources of Information

Documents

Assessment Records for Degree Programs, 2001-02 and 2002-03

Website

Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin

http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/bulletin/

7. The institution **must** have a clearly defined, published statement of purpose appropriate to an institution of higher education.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The *Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin* includes Vision and Mission Statements (6- 7). These Statements also appear in other University publications.

Source of Information

Website

Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin

http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/bulletin/

8. The institution **must** have an appropriate plan, as well as a functioning planning and evaluation process, which identifies and integrates projected educational, physical and financial development, and incorporates procedures for program review and institutional improvement.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The University has an appropriate plan for its educational, physical, and financial development. Recent evidence of commitment to this plan by the Board of Trustees includes the identification of strategic high priority needs such as enhancement of faculty salaries and establishment of Peaks of Excellence programs and the reallocation of funds from lower-priority activities to fund them; the adoption of a comprehensive campus plan for physical development; and the measured adjustments in tuition charges in response to diminished state funding. The University's annual planning and evaluation process is also functional at the Department and the College and School level. This process, managed largely through the computerized Auburn University Comprehensive University Planning System (AUCUPS), allows Department Heads and Chairs and Deans to identify projected educational, physical, and financial goals and to record progress toward them. These annual reports, when combined with annual assessment reports on student learning, allow for comprehensive program review and guide institutional improvement efforts.

Sources of Information

Documents

Assessment Records for Degree Programs, 2001-02 and 2002-03

Board of Trustees Minutes, July 1997

Master Plan, with Documents from **Section 6.4**

Websites

AUCUPS

http://frontpage.auburn.edu/gradschl/public_html/aucupsv2/

PowerPoint Presentation, Office of Assessment and Program Improvement

<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/assessment/reports/disciplines0001.ppt>

9. The institution **must** have published admission policies compatible with its stated purpose.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The University undergraduate admissions policy and admission to graduate standing policy are published in the *Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin*.

Source of Information

Website

Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin, 8-10 (Undergraduate) and 101-02 (Graduate)

http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/bulletin/

10. All undergraduate degree programs of the institution **must** include a substantial component of general education courses at the collegiate level. For degree completion in associate programs, the component **must** constitute a minimum of 15 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours and for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours. The credit hours **must** be drawn from and include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. The courses **must** be designed to ensure breadth of knowledge and **must** not be narrowly focused on those skills, techniques and procedures peculiar to a particular occupation or profession.

Auburn University is in compliance.

All students earning a bachelors degree from Auburn University must complete the University Core Curriculum of 41 semester hours. The Core Curriculum consists of English Composition (6 semester hours), Literature (6 semester hours), Philosophy (3 semester hours), Fine Arts (3 semester hours), Mathematics (3 semester hours), Science (8 semester hours in a sequence), History (6 semester hours), and Social Science (6 semester hours). The details are given in the *Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin*.

Source of Information

Website

Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin, 12-13

http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/bulletin/

11. The number of full-time faculty members **must** be adequate to provide effective teaching, advising and scholarly or creative activity. In each major in a degree program, there **must** be at least one full-time faculty member with responsibility for supervision and coordination of the major. In those degree programs for which the institution does not identify a major, this requirement **applies** to a curricular area or concentration.

Auburn University is in compliance.

During the 2001-02 academic year, it employed 1115 faculty members and had an undergraduate enrollment of 19,600 and a graduate enrollment of 2737 students. Professional students in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Pharmacy are counted in the undergraduate enrollment. The administration and the Board have targeted a total enrollment of 25,000, with 20,000 undergraduates and 5000 graduate students. At the undergraduate level the student/faculty ratio is 17.6, and at the graduate level it is 2.9. In all academic units, at least one full-time faculty member, usually the Department Head or Chair, is responsible for the supervision and coordination of the major.

Source of Information

Website

Employee Information, 2001-02

<http://www.panda.auburn.edu/employee.htm>

12. The institution **must** have sufficient learning resources or, through formal agreements or appropriate technology, ensure the provision of and ready access to adequate learning resources and services to support the courses, programs and degrees offered.

Auburn University is in compliance.

Faculty and students have access to the University Libraries and to the services of the Office of Information Technology. In addition to classrooms, teaching laboratories, and research laboratories, Auburn has a number of support facilities for its programs. Some examples of support facilities are the Learning Resources Center, which supports the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts, and the Leach Science Center, which supports research activities in the Sciences and Engineering. Within a year the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning will begin operation.

Sources of Information

Websites

Leach Science Center

http://www.auburn.edu/academic/science_math/leach/docs/

Learning Resources Center

<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/education/lrc/lrc.html>

Libraries Homepage

<http://www.lib.auburn.edu>

Office of Information Technology

<http://www.auburn.edu/oit/>

13. The institution **must** have an adequate financial base to accomplish its purpose at an acceptable level of quality on a continuing basis. The institution **must** provide financial statements and related documents (as specified in Section 6.3.6) which accurately and appropriately represent the total operation of the institution.

Any institution, whether a part of a system or not, which is seeking initial candidacy for membership, candidacy renewal, or initial membership **must** include in its application separate institutional audits and management letters for its three most recent fiscal years, including that for the fiscal year ending immediately prior to the date of the submission of the application. Further, it **must** have available the audit and management letter for the most recent fiscal year ending immediately prior to any committee visit for candidacy, candidacy renewal, or initial membership. These audits **must** be conducted by independent certified public accountants or an appropriate governmental auditing agency. An applicant or candidate institution **must** not show an annual or cumulative operating deficit at any time during the application process or at any time during candidacy.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The University is audited annually by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The audits and management letters for the past three years are available in the SACS Library.

Sources of Information

Documents

Audits with Documents from **Section 6.3**

Applicant and candidate military institutions authorized and operated by the federal government to award degrees **must** provide financial information, as shall be required by the Commission, from appropriate governmental agencies. This information **must** accurately represent the total opera-

tion of the institution and **must** be sufficient to demonstrate adequate financial support of programs and operations.

Auburn University is not a military institution, and these **must** statements do not apply to it.

1.5 Initial Membership

1.5

An institution seeking initial membership (accreditation), in addition to fulfilling requirements outlined in the *Criteria*, **must** document its compliance with all Conditions of Eligibility and **have been** in operation—i.e., have, without interruption, enrolled students in degree programs—through at least one complete degree program cycle and have graduated at least one class at the level of the highest degree offered prior to action by the Commission on Colleges.

Auburn University is seeking reaccreditation, not initial membership.

1.6 Representation of Status

1.6

An institution **must** be accurate in reporting to the public its status and relationship with the Commission. In catalogs, brochures and advertisements a member institution **must** describe its relationship with the Commission **only** according to the following statement:

(Name of institution) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033- 4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award (name specific degree levels).

Auburn University is in compliance.

The following statement appears in University publications available to the public.

Auburn University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Bachelor's, First Professional, Master's, Educational Specialist and Doctor's degrees.

For institutions in Candidacy status:

(Name of institution) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033- 4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award (name specific degree levels).

Auburn University is not in Candidacy status.

- No statement **may be made** about possible future accreditation status with the Commission on Colleges.

Auburn University will not make any statements about any possible future accreditation status with the Commission on Colleges

- The logo or seal of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools **must** not be used by the institution.

Auburn University is in compliance.

The logo or seal of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is not used by Auburn University in any of its publications.