

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, if Applicable

SACSCOC Policy: [Standard 5.1: Documenting an Alternative Approach](#)

Cross-References to Other Related Standards/Requirements, if Applicable

Standard 4.1 (*Governing board characteristics*)[see part e])

Standard 4.2.c (*CEO evaluation/selection*)

5.2.a **The chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate control over, the institution’s educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services. (*CEO control*)**

Rationale and Notes

The CEO oversees an organizational structure that includes key academic and administrative officers and decision makers with credentials appropriate to their respective responsibilities. Generally this oversight is done through a structural arrangement whereby key officers of the institution report directly to the CEO, or to a chief operating officer who in turn reports to the CEO. Regardless of the structure, the CEO is ultimately responsible for all operations of the institution.

Questions to Consider

- What is the organizational structure of the institution? How does the institution publish and disseminate its organizational structure?
- What is the specific reporting relationship of the CEO to institutional leadership for educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services? Do job descriptions support the CEO’s ultimate responsibility and control over these areas?
- Are reporting lines to the CEO clear to all affected constituencies?
- Is the organizational structure consistent with written policies governing roles and responsibilities of the board, administration, and faculty?

Sample Documentation

- Organizational charts showing reporting structures at the institution.
- Minutes from administrative leadership meetings showing the CEO’s role.
- Internal memos showing the CEO’s role.
- If authority is delegated, internal policies that clarify the authority for administrative and academic decisions.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

None noted.

Cross-References to Other Related Standards/Requirements, If Applicable

Standard 5.4 (*Qualified administrative/academic officers*)

- 5.2.b** **The chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for and exercises appropriate control over the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.**
(*Control of intercollegiate athletics*)

Rationale and Notes

The institution's intercollegiate athletics program often influences the institution's visibility and stature, helps define its image, may provide external financial support, and often is a major operation with a significant financial impact on the institution. It is important that the institution's CEO has ultimate and active responsibility for appropriate administrative and financial control of the institution's intercollegiate athletics program, including the academic standards of athletes and the activities of booster groups that are not fully independent of the institution. Athletic booster groups often fall under the parameters of Standard 5.3 (*Institution-related entities*).

Questions to Consider

- How does the institution's CEO exercise administrative and financial control over intercollegiate athletics, including athletic policies and procedures, operating budgets, recruiting standards, and academic standards for athletes?
- What is the reporting structure between the CEO and the athletic director?

Sample Documentation

- Job descriptions clarifying the reporting structure for those directing intercollegiate athletics, athletics budgets, athletics fundraising, and athletics compliance.
- Organizational charts establishing reporting relationships.
- Memos, minutes, and/or written correspondence establishing the role of the CEO in exercising control over intercollegiate athletics.
- Relevant standards of the most recent compliance reports addressing athletics oversight, such as reports from internal audits, or external bodies such as the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, and NCCAA.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

None noted.