



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
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THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC ON INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

A Position Statement

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, institutions are having to renegotiate their approaches to institutional effectiveness processes. Sound institutional planning and assessment form a cornerstone of assurance for educational quality. The ability of institutions to respond effectively in this fluid environment often depends upon the strength of the institution's long-standing engagement with ongoing and comprehensive planning, including risk management and business continuity planning. As institutions navigate managing the pandemic, regular planning and assessment practices may be disrupted or altered to give attention to the immediate crisis. The form, focus, and timing of institutional planning and evaluation and program assessment activities may change in substantive ways during these times. However, SACSCOC anticipates that institutions will move forward strategically, adjusting plans as needed and engaging in reflective practices that monitor the effects of decisions made on operational effectiveness and student learning. Documentation of decisions and actions taken prior to the current crisis and while institutions work toward returning to normal operations will be useful in demonstrating institutions' ongoing planning, evaluation, and assessment processes.

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