

Self-Study Workshop

Part 1

Public Institutions

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Objectives

- Review significance of Self-Study Report
- Discuss report components and format
- Suggest method for preparing report
- Recommend timeline for report activities
- Discuss how Self-Study Report and accreditation visit are interconnected
- Provide resources for institutional support

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Report Timeline

- “Begin with the end in mind”
- Schedule activities according to anticipated Team Visit date
- The complete Self-Study Report (and **NOT** a partial one) must be emailed to the Team Leader 60 calendar days before the Team Visit
- Institutions accepted as candidates for accreditation must host a team visit for initial accreditation no earlier than six months after attending the mandatory workshops and no later than 24 months after candidate status is granted. A valid transcript (which will be emailed to your institution) for required workshop attendance must be on file at the time of the accreditation visit.
- Have the on-site administrator or other full-time employee at the main campus attend required workshop(s) within 6-18 months prior to hosting the accreditation visiting team.
- Generally, an institution should allow 1 year for the Self-Study preparation
DO NOT RUSH THE PROCESS

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What We've Seen So Far.....

Scheduling Your Visit:

- Institution did not attend ALL required COE workshops
- Institution's workshop certifications expire before institution is scheduled to host their visit

Preparing for Your Visit:

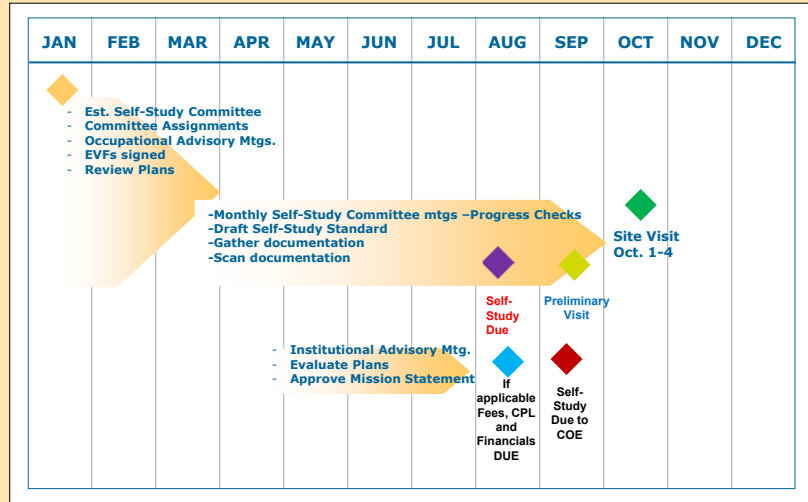
- Institution failed to submit complete self-study by 60-day due date
- Institution submitted an incomplete or incorrect self-study
- Institution is unprepared for a preliminary visit

Repercussions:

- \$2,000 penalty for late or incomplete submission of required documentation
- Violation Status (with penalty) for institutions
- Requirement to attend next COE conference and required workshops
- Reduced accreditation visit cycle/Delayed accreditation visit

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Self-Study Timeline



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What is a Self-Study Report?

- It is an ORIGINAL document prepared by an institution describing how the institution meets the Standards and Conditions of the Commission.
 - The Self-Study Report is a book or narrative about the institution.
 - Unique to your institution -- no other school's Self-Study should look like your Self-Study
- It familiarizes the visiting team with the institution's programs and services
- It is prepared according to a prescribed format
- It involves the participation of all institutional personnel

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Digital Exhibits

- Digital Exhibits show your compliance to the Conditions and Standards
- Specific and detailed
- At least one document per criterion
- Watch for commas, conjunctions
- How many years of exhibits should I prepare?
 - The following documentation must be kept on file from one accreditation team visit until the next. All documents will be prepared as exhibits:
 - Institutional Advisory Agendas and Minutes
 - Occupational Advisory Agendas and Minutes
 - Strategic Plan and All Other Plans
 - Records of Student Refunds

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Digital Exhibits, Continued...

- How many years of exhibits should I prepare? (Continued)
 - Grievances
 - Default Management Plans
 - Financial Reports
 - Copies of Promotional and Advertising Material (must be kept on file for 3 years)
 - Employer Verification Forms
- For all other types of documentation not listed above, the institution should provide one year of documentation in their exhibit materials. It is at the team's discretion to ask for additional documentation.

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The Accreditation Process

- Self-Study workshop attendance
- Preparation of Self-Study Report
 - Due 60 days prior to the Team Visit
- Preliminary visit by team leader
- Accreditation visit
- Team report
- Institutional response
- Commission vote to approve, defer, and deny accreditation

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Standards

Standard 1 - Institutional Mission

Standard 2 - Educational Programs

- A. Program Alignment and Administration
- B. Occupational Advisory Committee Activities
- C. Instructional Activities
- D. Coursework Delivered via Distance Education
- E. Work-Based Activities
- F. Associate Degree Nursing Programs (ACEN Dual Accredited)

Standard 3 - Program Outcomes

Standard 4 - Strategic Planning

Standard 5 - Learning Resources

- A. Media Services
- B. Instructional Equipment
- C. Instructional Supplies



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Standards, Continued...

Standard 6 - Physical Resources and Technical Infrastructure

Standard 7 - Financial Resources

Standard 8 - Human Resources

A. General

B. Faculty

C. Administrative and Supervisory Personnel

D. Instructional Support Staff

E. Non-instructional Support Staff/Services

Standard 9 - Organizational Structure

Standard 10 - Student Services and Activities



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Focus of the Self-Study Report:

The COE Check Sheets

- Represent the complete list of criteria for the Conditions and 10 Standards of accreditation by the Council
- The completed Conditions Check Sheet is included in the Self-Study Report
- Each Standard criterion must be addressed in the Self-Study Report
- Description of compliance to the criteria forms the basis of the Self-Study Report narrative
- Check Sheets should be copied and distributed to appropriate personnel

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What is not included in the Self-Study?

- Exhibits
- Links to documentation
- Objectives from the Handbook of Accreditation
- Standard 2 Program Supplement (each program is included in Standard 2)
- Plans, Policies and Procedures
- Institutional and Occupational Advisory Committee Minutes
- Financials and COE Questionnaire
- Employer Verification Forms
- Names of Staff Members

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Format for the Self-Study Report

- Cover
- Preface
- List of Self-Study Members
- Table of Contents
- Institutional and Community Characteristics
- Conditions Check Sheet and Findings
 - Condition Check Sheet must be included as part of the Self-Study document. Please ensure all boxes are checked. Do not include a narrative.
- Standards
 - Introduction
 - Analysis
 - Challenges and Solutions
 - Summary
 - Required Charts and Forms
- Glossary

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Standards

- Each Standard must include the following four parts:
 - A. **Introduction**
 - B. **Analysis** (*a re-statement of the criterion that is being addressed –copy from the Check Sheets*)
 - C. **Challenges and Solutions**
 - D. **Summary**

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Introduction

- A one- or two-paragraph introduction should begin each Standard.
- A brief narrative must be provided for each Standard and educational program, which briefly describes its history, mission and breadth.
- Also describe any unique circumstances or situations pertinent to the Standard or program.

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Example of Introduction

Standard 1

Institutional Mission

Since the college's inception in 1972 the mission of the institution has remained unchanged: "to prepare citizens for the modern workplace." While job titles, industries and careers paths have changed over the past 46 years, the focus of Decatur Technical College has not waivered. Assuring constancy of purpose and helping to disseminate the mission of the college to the broader Atlanta community, our Board of Directors is a vital part of the institutional organization. For purposes of COE accreditation, the Board of Director serves as the institutional advisory committee.

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Analysis

- The documents you have gathered provide the basis for your report
- State the criterion as worded on Check Sheets followed by how the institution complies
- Number the criteria just as they are numbered on the Check Sheets (**according to numbers in WHITE blocks**)
- Use any subdivisions listed on the Check Sheets
- Cite specific events

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Example of Analysis

Analysis

1. The primary mission of the institution is to instruct students to such competency levels that they are qualified for initial employment and/or career advancement.

The mission of Decatur Technical College is "to prepare citizens for the modern workplace." This simple mission statement has served the institution since the college's beginning in 1972. Since the institution had a total job placement rate of 92% for the 2021-2022 academic year, it is evident that the college's graduates possess a satisfactory level of competency for employment and that the institution's mission is proving to be successful.

2. The institution's mission is clearly and concisely stated in written form

The mission of Decatur Technical College is to prepare citizens for the modern workplace. This statement is prominently etched in the wall in the entrance atrium of the college. The same statement can be found in materials and publications throughout the institution.

3. The institution's mission is published in hard copy and online.

The institution's mission is available on the website, business cards, brochures, and applications and forms utilized by the institution.

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Example of Analysis, Continued

4. The institution's mission is publicly available.

All publications of the college—from catalogs and websites to brochures and marketing materials—prominently announce the mission statement of the school.

5. The institution's mission is used consistently in publications

The institution's marketing committee reviews and updates all marketing materials when publications are made available to the public and current constituents to ensure that the institution's mission is used consistently in all publications both online and in hard copy.

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BE DESCRIPTIVE

- Describe how your institution complies with the criterion.

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Multi-Part Criteria

- In the Standards there are several multi-part criteria. The multi-part criteria are identified on the 2022 Check Sheets in a red box. When writing the Self-Study Report, copy all the criteria in the red box and then explain how the institution is meeting **each** of those criteria.
- Multi-Part criteria can be found in several of the standards.

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Example of Multi-Part Criteria

STANDARD 1 Institutional Mission Generic Version – 2022 Edition

Standard 1 Criteria		YES	NO
1.	The primary mission of the institution is to instruct students to such competency levels that they are qualified for initial employment and/or career advancement.		
The institution's mission is			
2.	clearly and concisely stated in written form,		
3.	published in hard copy and/or online,		
4.	publicly available, and		
5.	used consistently in publications.		
6.	The institution has an organized and functional institutional advisory committee. VISITING TEAMS: If NO is checked, leave criteria 7-11 blank. Write one finding of non-compliance that specifies BOTH the requirement to appoint an institutional advisory committee AND each criterion 7-11. (See instructions page.)		
The institutional advisory committee meets the following requirements:			
7.	Is composed of no less than three persons, all of whom are external to the institution. (Committees larger than three members must maintain a majority of external members.)		
8.	Has at least three external members who meet these criteria present at each meeting (with at least two members physically present and one virtually present).		
9.	Meets at least once annually.		
10.	Keeps typed minutes to document its activities, recommendations, and meeting attendance.		
11.	Is used to seek input and provide community involvement in maintaining a relevant mission for the institution.		

The Criteria above represent the minimum requirements for an institutional advisory committee. The institutional advisory committee can also serve as the occupational advisory committee if only one occupational advisory committee is required for the institution. In those cases, the requirements of both committees (institutional and occupational) must be met. [\(See Policies and Rules of the Commission for more information regarding Requirements for Institutional Advisory Committees.\)](#)

MULTI-PART CRITERIA

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Multi-part Criteria (6-11)

6. The institution has an organized and functional institutional advisory committee.

The institutional advisory committee meets the following criteria:

7. Is composed of at least three persons with a majority being external to the institution.

8. Has at least three external members who meet these criteria present at each meeting (with at least two members physically present and one virtually present);

9. Meets at least once annually;

10. Keeps typed minutes to document its activities, recommendations, meeting attendance;

11. Is used to seek input and provide community involvement in maintaining a relevant mission for the institution.

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Multi-Part Criterion, Example

The Board of Directors serves in the capacity of institutional advisory committee for the college. The composition and duties of the Board are specified in the institution's charter dated 1972.

There are nine members serving on the Board of Directors. As stated in the institution's charter, the three "internal" members will be the college president and two representatives of EABI, Inc., the company that owns the college. The remaining six members are from outside the institution and represent businesses and industries in the broader community. The membership composition requirement for the Board has not changed since the founding of the college in 1972.

The Board of Directors meets twice each year: in June and December. On rare occasions there will be additional meetings as circumstances require. The two most recent meetings took place June 6, 2021 and December 5, 2021. The next scheduled meeting will be June 7, 2022.

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Multi-Part Criterion, Example, Continued...

Meeting minutes are taken, distributed and archived for each Board of Directors meeting as well as for subcommittee meetings. The college president's administrative assistant is responsible for this important task. The minutes include the following: meeting day, date, time and place; meeting attendees; agenda; new and old business; Board recommendations and declarations; copies of supporting materials; and the date, time and place of the next meeting.

The Board of Directors includes six members representing a broad cross-section of businesses, industries and public services in Decatur and the Atlanta metropolitan area. Currently the college's Board members are associated with the following organizations: the Coca-Cola Company, Dekalb General Hospital, Scientific Atlanta, Georgia Power, the Decatur Public School System, and Deloitte, LLP. Board members bring to the conference table the interests of their respective organizations in assuring that Decatur Technical College remains a viable player in the region's workforce development and continues to "prepare citizens for the modern workplace."

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Multi-Part Criterion, Example, Continued...

Decatur Technical College maintains a Marketing and Community Service Department with four full-time staff members, including a Director of Marketing, and a Community Service Coordinator. The primary role of this department is to build local and regional awareness of DTC, its mission and its programs.

Representatives of the college are members of and regularly attend the Greater Dekalb Rotary Club, the Decatur City Kiwanis Club, and Atlanta Forward! In addition, the college's faculty, staff and students regularly represent DTC at high school and municipal job fairs, youth programs, and educational events. Finally, Dr. Jonathan Everett, president of DTC, is a popular speaker in the state of Georgia and throughout the Southeast. He regularly speaks at both high school and college graduations and at important civic events. Furthermore, his role as Vice President of the Greater Atlanta Chamber of Commerce assures that the college has a voice to promote its mission to a wide audience across north Georgia.

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Challenges and Solutions

- Describe problem areas (where compliance to COE criteria is a challenge) in an objective, brief and straight-forward manner
- Tell how the school has solved the problem(s) and come into compliance
- Identifying challenges is an important part of the accreditation process.

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Example of Challenges and Solutions

One of the challenges faced by the college is assuring that its representatives gain feedback useful to the institution's program planners when attending local events and activities (Criterion 11). Whether they are staff members, instructors or students, school representatives need to realize that their participation at local events is not as simply "salesmen" for the college's occupational programs; it is also important for them to listen to the concerns of the event participants and bring something back to the college that will help shape the programs and services offered by DTC.

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Example of Challenges and Solutions, Cont...

To make sure this happens, beginning in September 2021 the Community Services Coordinator emails a single question to persons who have participated in an event on behalf of the college. The emailed question is: "What did you learn at [the event] that would be useful for DTC to know?" The responses she has received have been "all over the map." Some responses tell of new occupational areas previously unheard of by college administrators, such as Artificial Intelligence Engineering and DNA Transcriber. The information gleaned from this one-question survey has proved beneficial to the Department of Instructional Services in keeping the college centered on the "modern workplace" cited in our mission statement.

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Summary

- A one paragraph summary will conclude the chapter by highlighting significant accomplishments or challenges relative to the Standard or Program.

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Example of Summary

Summary

The mission of Decatur Technical College has not changed in over 45 years: "to prepare citizens for the modern workplace." The mission statement appears in a variety of college publications and remains at the focus of activities endorsed by the institution's Board of Directors. Through faculty, staff and student involvement in a variety of outreach programs, the communities of Decatur, Dekalb County and the Atlanta metropolitan area are continually reminded of the programs and services that support the mission of the college.

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report

Charts/Forms that MUST be included in the Self-Study:

(2018 Self-Study Manual Pgs 12-13)

- **Post-Secondary Educational Program Chart (Standard 2)**
 - Each campus has its own chart
 - Be sure program hours are consistent with those listed on Clock Hour/Credit Hour Chart and on Employer Verification Form
 - Course titles should be consistent with titles on your COE List of Approved Programs
 - Group program “families” together (i.e., Accounting AAS, Accounting Diploma, Bookkeeping Certificate, etc.)

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report, Cont.

- **Clock Hour/Credit Hour Chart (Standard 2 if applicable)**
 - Only for programs offered and COE approved in credit hours
 - Course titles should be consistent with titles on your COE List of Approved Programs
 - Double-check clock hour-to-credit hour conversion for lecture, lab, and work-based activities (see 2022 Handbook of Accreditation, Std 2, Item B-36, Pg. 59)

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report

- **Completion/Placement/Licensure Form (Standard 3)**
 - Use the report submitted with the most recent COE Annual Report
 - Note the definition of a “completer” (pg.85 2022 Handbook of Accreditation)
 - Each campus has its own CPL form.
 - Secondary programs use a separate form

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report

Completion/Placement/Licensure Form (Standard 3)

FOR INITIAL ACCREDITATION ONLY: The majority of programs must meet the required benchmarks for completion, placement, and licensure exam pass rate.

COE benchmarks for completion are 60%, for placement 70%, and licensure exam pass rate 70%.

Institutions preparing for initial accreditation must submit CPL data to COE 60 days prior to hosting the team. Check the COE website for CPL form to complete.

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report

- **Roster of Instructional Staff (Standard 8) Page 55 2018 Self-Study Manual**
 - Each campus has its own charts
 - Group instructors by program
 - Include a major when listing AS, BS, MS, etc.
 - Indicate associate degree faculty with asterisk
 - Workload is shown in hours per week
 - If abbreviating course titles under the *Courses Taught* column, then provide a key/legend listing the full name of those courses
- **Roster of Administrative/Supervisory Staff (Standard 8) Page 56 2018 Self-Study Manual**
 - Group by service area (Student Services, Business Office, Financial Aid, etc.)

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Charts/Forms Included in the Self-Study Report

- **Form of Ownership (Standard 9)**
 - Complete the form as it applies to your - institution. **(Pages 57-60 2018 Self-Study Manual)**

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IMPORTANT NOTE

- The Self-Study Report is not the place to inform the Commission about new programs, new branches, changes of location, etc. There is a specific application procedure required for Commission approval of these types of substantive changes. (Refer to 2022 *Handbook of Accreditation*, pages 29-48)
- Check your MyCouncil List of Approved Programs often
 - Program Names
 - Clock Hours or Credit Hours, if applicable
 - Mode of Delivery
 - Campus Names and Addresses

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Substantive Changes

A substantive change is one which significantly alters an institution's scope, programs, location, standing with another nationally recognized accrediting agency or state or federal agency, financial stability, ownership or control.

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Substantive Changes, Continued...

Here it is again....just as a REMINDER:

- **IMPORTANT:** A moratorium will be placed on the acceptance of, processing, and approval (both initial and final) of ALL substantive changes beginning 6 months prior to the original scheduled dates of accreditation team visits through the date the Commission grants initial accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. Also, institutions in candidate status are not permitted to apply for approval of substantive changes of any kind. Waivers of this policy may be granted when changes are mandated by the institution's local school district or state agency. (Exception: Program additions and changes may be approved after the last day of an accreditation visit for initial or reaffirmation of accreditation only for the purpose of compliance with findings stated in the official team report.)

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Standard 2

- The Composite is no longer required
- The program supplement is not required, but in Standard 2 there is a chapter for each occupational program
- Has the same format and 4-part organization as the Self-Study Report
- Each program chapter includes a Clock Hour/Credit Hour Chart, if applicable
- All programs listed on the COE Approved Program List in the MyCouncil software must be included in Standard 2
- One Postsecondary Educational Program Chart for each campus
- Refer to Pages 12, 13, 33, and 37 of the 2018 Self-Study Manual

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Requirements for a Successful Self-Study Report

- Start Early/Develop a Plan
- Commitment of time and resources
- Institutional leadership support
- Involvement of all members of the institutional community
- Adherence to 2018 *Self-Study Manual* guidelines
- Objective perspective with a focus on institutional improvement

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Self-Study Report and the Team Visit

- Self-Study Report familiarizes team members with the institution's programs, services and characteristics
- The Self-Study Report (*book*) provides the team with a valuable "first impression"
- Team members will seek to verify that the Self-Study Report is an accurate description of activities taking place at your institution

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Self-Study Report and the Team Visit

- Documents gathered to write the Report should become the exhibits reviewed by the visiting team
- At the time of the site visit, the institution is providing a snapshot in time; therefore, no changes, modifications, additions, and deletions can be made to the institution's documentation
- The team will allow the institution a reasonable time to retrieve **existing** documentation (determined by the team leader)
- Exhibits should be presented in electronic folders arranged in the exact order as the criteria on the COE Check Sheets
- There should be at least one exhibit for each criterion
- There should be exhibits for the Conditions, for each Standard, and for each occupational program

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NOTE

During the preliminary visit or before, if the Team Leader finds that the Self-Study Report does not comply with requirements specified in the COE Self-Study Manual, the team visit will be postponed and rescheduled.

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2022 Self-Study Submission

- The Council now requires only one digital copy of the Self-Study to be submitted to the Commission Office to Robert Carrigan and Shelby Griffeth at robert.carrigan@council.org and shelby.griffeth@council.org.
- Submit the document as ONE file 20 days prior to the scheduled visit.
- Digital Document Formats: PDF, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. Ensure to provide COE staff with appropriate access information
- The institution should maintain at least one copy of the Self-Study Report for the school's permanent accreditation file

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Institutions planning to host accreditation visiting teams must arrange for one of their Advisory Committees to complete an online survey of the Council's accreditation standards.
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COEAdvisoryCommittees>
- Print the last page before you hit the submit button for documentation. The response will be used in the exhibit materials.

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Guidelines for Reporting Secondary Programs: *Important change to this policy. The Council gives the institution the option to include secondary programs in the Self-Study Report. Institutions are no longer required to include secondary students and programs in the Self-Study Report (and FTE calculation and completion rate data collection).

(2021 Policy and Rules of the Commission page 14)

Consultants may not serve in the role of accreditation liaisons for an institution and should not contact the Council office for information on behalf of the institution.

(2022 Handbook of Accreditation page 15)

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Frequently Asked Questions:

- For multi-campus institutions, does each campus need its own Self-Study Report?
- Are continuing education, industry training (Microsoft Word) or adult education program e.g., GED prep, included in the review?
- Does the Conditions section require a narrative report?
- Are discontinued programs written up in the Self-Study Report?
- **What is a program?**

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Occupational Programs (What is a Program?)

An "occupational program" is one that prepares a student for employment or job advancement. Occupational programs can be of any length, from a 40-hour phlebotomy program to a 2,000-hour dental hygiene program. The term "short program" has no meaning with CO. Whether the school calls it a "course" or a "program", if the instruction imparts job knowledge and skills and prepares the student for employment or job advancement, it is an "occupational program" in the eyes of the Council.

All active occupational programs offered by a school and enrolling adult students must be listed on the Postsecondary Educational Programs chart in the COE Candidate Application. If you have an official enrollment agreement or contract that allows students to register for the XYZ Program at 600 clock hours, your Postsecondary Educational Programs chart must show the XYZ Program at 600 clock hours. An active program is one that enrolls students today or that has had student enrollment in the previous 12 months.

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Occupational Programs, Continued... (What is a Program?)

The list of occupational programs appearing on the Postsecondary Educational Programs chart is in no way related to federal (Title IV) student financial aid. It does not matter if a program is Title IV-eligible or not; if it is an active adult occupational program - of any length-it is included on the Postsecondary Educational Programs chart.

What programs are NOT occupational programs? Adult literacy or GED prep; ESL (although Vocational EL programs are considered occupational programs); industry contract training; "life-enrichment" continuing education; licensure or certification test preparation courses; individual courses (such as Microsoft Word, or Turbo-Tax] that may impart specific skill or knowledge, but not enough to prepare the student for employment.

Still uncertain if a program is occupational? Ask yourself: "If a student successfully completes this program, will he or she be eligible for employment or job advancement based on the skills and knowledge learned in the program?" If the answer is "yes" it is an occupational program.

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Frequently Asked Questions:

- Does COE notify the Department of Education of accreditation decisions?
- Does an institution that is being considered for reaffirmation need to give notice on the institution's web site and in at least one print media source? When?
- When can I start talking to my team leader?

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Where do you find the survey that must be taken by the advisory committee?
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COEAdvisoryCommittees>
- What size font (size and style) is appropriate?
- Can links be included in the Analysis of the Self-Study Report?

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Additional COE workshops

- **Required:** Self-Study Workshop Part 2 of 2: Preparing Self-Study Exhibits and Writing Plans for the Self-Study (Accreditation Compliance Track)
- **Required:** The Annual Report; The Annual Report: Reporting Completion, Placement, and Licensure Data

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If You Want COE Credit for Attending
This Workshop...



Self-Study
Workshop
Transcript

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Resources

- COE Publications
- Handbook of Accreditation
- Policies and Rules of the Commission
- Self-Study Manual
- COE Staff (1.800.917.2081)
- COE Web Site (www.council.org)

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Contact Information

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