

NUMBERED MEMO CC25-044

TO: Members of the State Board of Community Colleges, Chairs of the Community College Boards of Trustees, Community College Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Admissions Officers, Basic Skills Directors, Business Officers, Continuing Education Officers, Customized Training Directors, Chief Financial Officers, Distance Learning, Financial Aid Officers, Personnel Officers, Student Development Administrators, Public Information Officers, Registrars, & Other Interested Parties

FROM: Jonnell Carpenter, *NCCCS General Counsel*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of 1B SBCCC 400.1 – Accreditation by the Southern Association

DATE: May 20, 2025

On May 16, 2025, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) initiated the rulemaking process to amend **1B SBCCC 400.1 – Accreditation by the Southern Association**. The proposed amendment would require colleges to obtain and maintain accreditation with an institutional accreditor instead of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The proposed amendment is published on the NC Community College System's website, [Numbered Memos - NCCCS \(ncccommunitycolleges.edu\)](https://www.ncccommunitycolleges.edu). For your convenience, a copy of the proposed rule, with the changes indicated, is attached to this memorandum. Strikethroughs indicate deletions of existing language and underlines indicate additions of language.

Any member of the public has the right to submit written comments on the proposed rule. Please note that any person who submits public comments on behalf of their community college should comply with their college's local process for submitting comments on a proposed rule. **Written comments on the rule must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2025.** Any member of the public has the right to request a hearing on the proposed rule. **Requests for a hearing must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2025.**

Written comments and requests for hearing shall be directed to the following address:
Jonnell Carpenter, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5001 or by email to
publiccomments@nccommunitycolleges.edu. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC25-044

Email Copy
Attachment



State Board of Community Colleges Code

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Form

Date: May 20, 2025

Title, Chapter, Subchapter, and Rule Number of Rule Proposed to be Adopted, Amended, or Repealed	Amend 1B SBCCC 400.1 – Accreditation by the Southern Association
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Specify whether the SBCC proposes to amend, adopt, or repeal a rule:

Adopt (new rule)	Amend (change existing rule)	Repeal (delete entire rule)
	X	

Rationale for proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal:	Recent North Carolina legislation allows community colleges to use accreditors other than SACSCOC. Updating the State Board Code ensures legal compliance as well as providing clear guidance on accreditor selection and maintain system wide accountability and access to federal funding.
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Proposed Effective Date of Rule	August 1, 2025
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1B SBCCC 400.1 is proposed for amendment as follows:

**State Board of Community Colleges Code
TITLE 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

CHAPTER B. COLLEGE OPERATIONS



SUBCHAPTER 400. PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

1B SBCCC 400.1 Institutional Accreditation ~~By the Southern Association~~

All colleges shall obtain and maintain ~~regional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)~~ accreditation with an agency or association that accredits institutions of higher education and in accordance with North Carolina law. The System Office shall provide biannually a report to the State Board listing any accreditation actions taken by ~~SACSCOC~~ institutional accreditors with regards to a North Carolina community college. The System President, when requested, will provide assistance to colleges seeking ~~regional~~ institutional accreditation.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. [October 1, 2018](#)

Amended Eff. _____