



**POLICY TITLE**

*Programmatic Accreditation*

**POLICY NUMBER**

*1-4090*

<p><b>Responsible Office:</b> <i>Academic and Workforce Development</i></p> <p><b>Responsible Official:</b> <i>Provost/Vice Chancellor for Workforce and Student Development</i></p> <p><b>Policy Classification:</b> <i>Academics, Workforce, and Student Development</i></p>	<p><b>Effective Date:</b> <i>12/18/2023</i></p> <p><b>Last Reviewed Date:</b> <i>11/15/2023</i></p> <p><b>Origination Date:</b> <i>05/09/2011</i></p>
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**I. POLICY STATEMENT**

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) shall seek and maintain programmatic accreditation for each academic program as mandated by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors and/or the Board of Regents.

Vocational, technical, and/or occupational programs offered by BRCC shall also maintain programmatic accreditation as established by industry.

All correspondence, such as applications for candidacy, self-study reports, and/or accreditation renewal, with specialized programmatic accrediting agencies shall include the following description of BRCC:

*Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) is a public, comprehensive community college located in the heart of the capital city of Louisiana. BRCC is governed by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), composed of twelve community and technical colleges. BRCC officially opened its doors on August 20, 1998. The College sought Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation in 2002 and achieved accreditation status in 2004; accreditation was reaffirmed in 2009 and in 2019. BRCC’s merger with the former Capital Area Technical College (CATC), mandated by the Louisiana Legislature in 2013, was approved by SACSCOC in December 2015, providing opportunities for increased access to professional technical programs and academic degrees for students in BRCC’s newly enlarged service area.*

*Baton Rouge Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Baton Rouge Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).*

## **II. POLICY RATIONALE AND SCOPE**

At the state level, the Board of Regents has the final approval authority for degrees offered by BRCC. Initial approval of associate degrees by the Board of Regents is conditional, requiring annual progress reports to achieve full approval. The Board of Regents recognizes programmatic accrediting agencies it considers as mandatory, recommended, or optional for eligible programs, with eligibility determined by the award level of the program (certificate, associate degree, for example). A program eligible for accreditation by an agency the Board considers mandatory must be accredited for continued program approval. The Board of Regents encourages institutions to obtain accreditation of programs eligible for accreditation by an agency it recommends, but it is not essential for continued program approval. Accreditation by agencies the Board does not consider mandatory or recommended by the Board of Regents is considered optional; the Board encourages institutions with eligible programs to evaluate the importance of those accreditations to its students. A master list of approved academic program accrediting agencies and accreditation requirements is included in the Board of Regents, Academic Affairs policy 2.13, Program Accreditation.

Accreditation of programs by specialized external accrediting agencies communicates to the public BRCC's high educational standards. Accreditation of educational programs validates the achievement of BRCC students in the eyes of transfer institutions and to employers in specialized, professional fields\*.

BRCC is committed to accurately representing the College to specialized, external accrediting agencies, including its accreditation status with SACSCOC. Accurate representation of the College, along with SACSCOC accreditation, is necessary for compliance with the SACSCOC Principle on representation of the College to other agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education, as well as with the Commission's policies on Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure and Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies,

## **III. POLICY AUDIENCE**

The audience for this policy includes individuals who correspond with specialized external accrediting agencies, the Board of Regents, and SACSCOC (Deans, Department Chairs, Program Managers, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academics and Workforce Development,

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\* Note that programs that are *endorsed* by an organization are not accredited, but instead have received public approval or support from that organization. Endorsement of programs is important for validation of student achievement to employers in business and industry sectors.

Provost/Vice Chancellor for Workforce and Student Development, and BRCC's Institutional Accreditation Liaison). It also includes individuals whose position involves describing BRCC to other external stakeholders in a variety of publications, such as the Director of the Grant Resource Center and the Chief Marketing and Public Relations Officer. Note that the BRCC Institutional Accreditation Liaison is responsible for ensuring that accreditors are notified when a change in status occurs, including voluntary withdrawal of accreditation.

#### **IV. POLICY COMPLIANCE**

Maintenance of SACSCOC accreditation requires inclusion of an accurate description of the College and its accreditation status to specialized external programmatic accrediting agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education. Full approval of associate degrees by the Board of Regents is dependent on compliance with Board of Regents Academic Affairs policy 2.13, Programmatic Accreditation. BRCC's Institutional Accreditation Liaison is responsible for ensuring periodic review of the College's self-description for specialized external accrediting agencies, for communicating changes to the self-description to the policy audience, and for ensuring that the description of the College's accreditation status is consistent with SACSCOC policy.

#### **V. POLICY DEFINITIONS**

Accreditation: is the recognition that an institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

United States Department of Education, <https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/FAQAccr.aspx>

Specialized or Programmatic Accreditation: normally applies to the evaluation of programs which usually are parts of a total postsecondary institution. The unit accredited may be a curriculum within a discipline.

United States Department of Education, <https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/FAQAccr.aspx>

#### **VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES**

The paragraphs provided in Section I of this policy containing the description of BRCC are to be included in correspondence with specialized external programmatic accrediting agencies (*e.g.*, in the cover letter or in the appropriate section of the self-study report or reaccreditation documentation).

#### **VII. POLICY RELATED INFORMATION**

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Principle on Representation to Other Agencies, and policies "Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure" and "Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies," on the web at [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org).

United States Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs, on the web at <https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Agencies.aspx>. Board of Regents Academic [Affairs Policy 2.13, Program Accreditation](#), and the Board of Regents [Master List of Approved Academic Program Accrediting Agencies](#) Louisiana Community and Technical College System [Academic Policy 1.011, Accreditation](#)

### **VIII. POLICY EXCEPTION**

This policy does not apply to students, staff, and Departments, Divisions, and Administrative units that offer programs for which accreditation is neither required nor sought, nor does it apply to those units that do not publish information about the College or its accreditation status.

### **IX. POLICY HISTORY AND REVIEW CYCLE**

The policy origination and first effective date was 5/9/2011. The policy was last reviewed on 8/8/2018. The revision presented here supersedes the policy reviewed on 8/8/2018. The effective date for this revision is the date on which the Chancellor for Baton Rouge Community College approved this revision. The policy is to be reviewed and revised, as needed, within three years of the effective date.

### **X. POLICY URL**

This policy may be accessed on the BRCC website at [www.mybrcc.edu](http://www.mybrcc.edu).

### **XI. POLICY APPROVAL - SIGNATURE, NAME, TITLE, AND DATE OF OFFICIAL**



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Willie E. Smith, Sr., Ed.D.  
Chancellor

12/18/2023

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Date  
*Effective Date of Policy*