

College of Charleston
Statement of Alternative Faculty Qualifications for SACS
August 2006

The reaccreditation process by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires that we certify the credentials of all faculty teaching College of Charleston students.

The new SACS *Principles of Accreditation* requires, for **undergraduate teaching**:

- the earned doctorate/terminal degree or the master's **in the teaching discipline** or related field
- or a **minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline**
- or documented evidence of strong alternate qualifications (the "exception" letter)

For **graduate faculty**, the *Principles* require:

- the earned doctorate/terminal degree **in the teaching discipline** or related field
- or documented evidence of strong alternate qualifications (the "exception" letter)

The statements of alternative qualifications must address as many of the following as apply to a particular situation:

- Competence
- Effectiveness
- Capacity
- As appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees
- Related work experiences in the field
- Professional licensure and certifications
- Honors and awards
- Continuous documented excellence in teaching
- Other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes

The statement of alternative qualifications must address:

- how the candidate's alternative qualifications relate to **specific courses to be taught**

Should the courses to be taught change at some future date, the statement of alternative qualifications must be updated to include these new courses.

The Statement of Alternative Qualifications **must be**

- **written by the Chair**, Dean, Department/Program Head (under no circumstances should it be written by the candidate)
- **accompanied by the credential form and all supporting documentation (including official transcripts)**
- and **should be addressed to:**

Pamela Isacco Niesslein, Ph.D.,
*Associate VP for Accountability and Accreditation
& SACS Liaison*
AAPA

The credential form, statement of alternate qualifications, the C.V., and official transcripts will be reviewed and, when accepted, will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions, please call Pam Niesslein at 953-PLAN (7526) or email at niessleinp@cofc.edu.