

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' standards for accreditation make mention of service in two separate standards; however the mention is very brief and in both cases relate the service to the mission of the institution. Within the criteria on institutional effectiveness is a mention of service is in the context of reviewing the quality and utility of certain programs. Here is the pertinent section of the accreditation standards:

3.3 Institutional effectiveness

3.3.1 – The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas: (Institutional Effectiveness)

3.3.1.5 – Community/public service within its mission, if appropriate

For the sake of brevity, I removed sections 3.3.1.1-3.3.1.4, because they were not relevant to the issue of service. Community and public service are only mentioned as programs whose outcomes must be measured by an institution if it has the aforementioned programs. While the acknowledgement of service programs is a positive, there isn't any encouragement toward universities to institute those types of programs.

A different standard refers to service programs as part of outreach activities:

3.4 All Educational Programs

3.4.2 – The institution's continuing education, outreach, and service programs are consistent with the institution's mission (Continuing education/service programs)