









	Approved for FCS Option 1	Approved for FCS Option 2	Approved for FCS Option 3	SF's Current Institutional Accreditor
Institutional Accreditors				
	The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is headquartered in Chicago, IL. Current president: Barbara Gellman-Danley.	The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is headquartered in Wilmington, DE. Current president: Heather Perfetti.	The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is headquartered in Redmond, WA. Current president: Sonny Ramaswamy.	The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is headquartered in Decatur, GA. Current president: Belle Wheelan.
Review Cycle	Ten-year cycle with fourth-year review	Eight-year cycle with fourth-year review	Seven-year cycle with third-year review	Ten-year cycle with fifth-year review
Required Strategic Initiative	Quality Initiative Proposal undertaken in years 5-9; QI report due in year nine	NA	NA	Quality Enhancement Plan undertaken in years 1-5; impact report due with fifth-year review
Current Membership	~1,000 degree-granting institutions in states including AR, AZ, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, OK, SD, WI, and WV	~525 degree-granting institutions in states including DE, the District of Columbia, MD, NJ, NY, PA, and other geographies	~160 degree-granting institutions in states including AK, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, and other geographies	~800 degree-granting institutions in states including AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TE, TX, and VA and other geographies
Percentage of Board from Similar Profile Institutions	Public Colleges: 6% Community & Tech Colleges: 25% Total: 31%	Public Colleges: 4% Community & Tech Colleges: 18% Total: 22%	Public Colleges: 10% Community & Tech Colleges: 24% Total: 34%	Public Colleges: 8% Community & Tech Colleges: 23% Total: 31%
Accelerated Process toward Membership	Yes, for institutions in good standing with another institutional accreditor	No	Yes, for institutions in good standing with another institutional accreditor	SF must maintain good standing with SACSCOC while seeking membership with a new accreditor. The Fifth-Year Review and QEP Impact Report are due in 2028, and typically take 18 months to prepare.
Timeframe from Point of Application*	~18 months	~26-30 months	~12-36 months	
*Additional timeframe considerations: before applying for membership, the College must seek and receive permission from the USDE to seek a new institutional accreditor, a process taking many months. Additionally, a preliminary timeframe for inquiry to pre-application varies among accreditors. During the preparatory period prior to formal application, the College would work to ensure that it will be able to demonstrate compliance with the new accreditor's requirements, a process that may include codifying changes in current institutional policies and/or practices. Choosing an institutional accreditor with standards most aligned with SACSCOC principles of accreditation and policy expectations would shorten this pre-application period.				

Institutional Accreditors	 Higher Learning Commission	 <b>MSCHE</b> MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION	 <b>NWCCU</b> NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	 <b>SACS COC™</b>
Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mission</li> <li>2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct</li> <li>3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support</li> <li>4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement</li> <li>5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mission and Goals</li> <li>2. Ethics and Integrity</li> <li>3. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience</li> <li>4. Support of the Student Experience</li> <li>5. Educational Effectiveness Assessment</li> <li>6. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement</li> <li>7. Governance, Leadership, and Administration</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student Success, and Institutional Mission and Effectiveness</li> <li>2. Governance, Resources, and Capacity</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrity</li> <li>2. Mission</li> <li>3. Basic Eligibility</li> <li>4. Governing Board</li> <li>5. Administration and Organization</li> <li>6. Faculty</li> <li>7. Institutional Planning and Effectiveness</li> <li>8. Student Achievement</li> <li>9. Educational Program Structure and Content</li> <li>10. Educational Policies, Procedures, and Practices</li> <li>11. Library and Learning/Information Resources</li> <li>12. Academic and Student Support Services</li> <li>13. Financial and Physical Resources</li> <li>14. Transparency and Institutional Representation</li> </ol>
Self-Study Focus Items for Response	69 18 core components	50	47	58
Pre-application Fees	NA	\$4,800 + \$1,000 per Center/OCIS plus expenses	\$1,000	
Application Fees	\$17,650 + expenses (Accelerated Process for Initial Accreditation)	\$14,680 (Candidate assessment requires additional \$9,240 and \$2,100 per Center/location plus expenses)	\$9,900 + expenses (Candidate assessment requires additional \$4,900 per evaluator plus expenses)	