

Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Name of Institution

Date of Submission

In order to be accredited by the Commission on Colleges, an institution is required to conduct a comprehensive compliance audit prior to the filing of the Compliance Certification. The comprehensive compliance audit includes an assessment of all programs and courses offered by the institution on-campus and off-campus, and those offered through distance learning. The Compliance Certification, signed by the institution=s chief executive officer and accreditation liaison, attests to the institution's honest assessment of compliance with the accreditation requirements of the Commission on Colleges (including Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements) as applied to all aspects of the institution.

Completion of the Compliance Certification

The Compliance Certification consists of four parts:

- Part 1 Signature Page for the institution's chief executive officer and the accreditation liaison;
- Part 2 List of all substantive changes that have been reported and approved by the Commission since the institution's last reaffirmation as well as the date of approval; and
- Part 3 The institution's assessment of compliance.
- Part 4 An attached and updated "Institutional Summary Form Prepared for Commission Reviews" that (a) lists all locations where coursework toward a degree, certificate, or diploma can be obtained primarily through traditional classroom instruction, and (b) describes distance education credit offerings that can be obtained primarily through electronic means.

For each Part, please follow the directions provided. For Part 2 above, if there have been no institutional changes that required reporting or approval since the institution's last comprehensive review, please indicate it as well.

Part 1. SIGNATURES ATTESTING TO COMPLIANCE

By signing	below, we attest to the following:		
1.	That (name of institution) has conducted an honest assessment of compliance and has provided complete and accurate disclosure of timely information regarding compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements of the Commission on Colleges.		
2.	That (name of institution) has attached a complete and accurate listing of all programs offered by the institution, the locations where they are offered, and the means by which they are offered as indicated on the updated "Institutional Summary Form Prepared for Commission Reviews," and that the comprehensive assessment of compliance reported on the Compliance Certification includes the review of all such programs.		
3.	That (name of institution) has provided a complete and accurate listing of all substantive changes that have been reported and approved by the Commission since the institution's last reaffirmation as well as the date of Commission approval.		
Accred	Accreditation Liaison		
Na	me of Accreditation Liaison		
Sig	gnature		
Da	te		
Chief I	Executive Officer		
Na	me of Chief Executive Officer		
Sig	gnature		
Da	te		

Part 2. LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES APPROVED SINCE THE LAST REAFFIRMATION

Directions: For each substantive change approved since the institution's initial accreditation or last reaffirmation review, briefly describe the change and provide the date of Commission approval. If no substantive changes requiring approval have been submitted since the last comprehensive review, write "none" in the first column. If, in the review of substantive change, the institution discovers substantive changes that have not been reported according to Commission policy, the changes should be reported immediately to Commission staff.

Substantive changes requiring approval:

- Initiating certificate or degree programs at a more advanced degree level
- Initiating an off-campus site at which students can earn at least 50 percent of credits toward a degree
- · Initiating a branch campus
- Initiating any change in legal status, governance, form of control, or ownership of the institution
- Expanding the institution's programs at the current degree level through the addition of significantly different programs
- Initiating programs at a lower degree level
- · Initiating a consolidation or merger

See the hhtp://www.sacscoc.org.commpub1.asp for additional information on reporting substantive change, including examples of the changes listed above.

Approval Date

Description of Substantive Change

Part 3. INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE

institut	ion should place an "X'	the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards listed below, the before the judgment of compliance and then add narrative for the judgment with directions requested in the category description.
	Compliance	The institution meets the requirement and provides a convincing argument in support of its determination, and a list of documents (or electronic access to the documents) demonstrating compliance.
	Partial Compliance	The institution meets some, but not all, aspects of the requirement. For those aspects meeting the requirement, the institution provides a convincing argument in support of its determination, and a list of documents (or electronic access to the documents) demonstrating compliance. For those aspects not meeting the requirement, the institution provides the reason for checking partial compliance, a description of plans to comply, and a list of documents that will be used to demonstrate future compliance.
	Non-Compliance	The institution does not meet the requirement and provides the reason for checking non-compliance, a description of plans to comply, and a list of documents that will be used to demonstrate future compliance.
	Secti	on 2 CORE REQUIREMENTS
		on 2 done negoniemento
2.1		gree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.
2.1	The institution has deg (Degree-granting Au	gree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.
2.1	The institution has deg (Degree-granting Au	gree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.
2.1	The institution has des (Degree-granting Au Compliance Narrative: The institution has a gauthority over the	gree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies. Athority) Partial Compliance Non-Compliance governing board of at least five members that is the legal body with specific litution. The board is an active policy-making body for the institution and is a for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are adequate to ational program. The board is not controlled by a minority of board members interests separate from it. Neither the presiding officer of the board nor the green members of the board have contractual, employment, or personal or familial

___ Non-Compliance

___ Partial Compliance

Compliance

	Narra	tive:
2.3		stitution has a chief executive officer whose primary responsibility is to the institution and who the presiding officer of the board. (Chief Executive Officer)
	Co	ompliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narra	tive:
2.4	appro	stitution has a clearly defined and published mission statement specific to the institution and briate to an institution of higher education, addressing teaching and learning and, where able, research and public service. (Institutional Mission)
	Co	ompliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narra	tive:
2.5	evalua in con	stitution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and ation processes that incorporate a systematic review of programs and services that (a) results tinuing improvement and (b) demonstrates that the institution is effectively accomplishing its in. (Institutional Effectiveness)
	Co	ompliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narra	tive:
2.6	The ir	nstitution is in operation and has students enrolled in degree programs. (Continuous ation)
	Co	ompliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narra	tive:
2.7	The in	stitution
	2.7.1	offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides a written justification and rationale for program equivalency. (Program Length)
	2.7.2	offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study that is compatible with its stated purpose and is based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. (Program Content)
	2.7.3	requires in each undergraduate degree program the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level that is (1) a substantial component of each undergraduate degree, (2) ensures breadth of knowledge, and (3) is based on a coherent rationale. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent. These credit hours are to be drawn from and include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts; social/behavioral sciences; and natural science/mathematics. The courses do not narrowly focus on those

	institution provides a written justification and rationale for course equivalency. (General Education)
	2.7.4 provides instruction for all course work required for at least one degree program at each level at which if awards degrees. If the institution makes arrangements for some instruction to be provided by other accredited institutions or entities through contracts or consortia, or uses some other alternative approach to meeting this requirement, the alternative approach must be approved by the Commission on Colleges. In all cases, the institution demonstrates that it controls all aspects of its educational program. (Contractual Agreements for Instruction)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
2.8	The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution. The institution has adequate faculty resources to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs. In addition, upon application for candidacy, an applicant institution demonstrates that it meets the comprehensive standard for faculty qualifications. (Faculty)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
2.9	The institution, through ownership or formal arrangements or agreements, provides and supports student and faculty access and user privileges to adequate library collections as well as to other learning/information resources consistent with the degrees offered. These collections and resources are sufficient to support all its educational, research, and public service programs. (Learning Resources and Services)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
2.10	The institution provides student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission that promote student learning and enhance the development of its students. (Student Support Services)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
2.11	The institution has a sound financial base and demonstrated financial stability, and adequate physical resources to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services.
	The member institution provides the following financial statements: (a) an institutional audit (or Standard Review Report issued in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the AICPA for those institutions audited as part of a systemwide or statewide audit) and written institutional management letter for the most recent fiscal year prepared by an independent certified public accountant and/or an appropriate governmental auditing agency employing the appropriate audit (or Standard Review Report) guide; (b) a statement of financial position of unrestricted net assets, exclusive of plant assets and plant-related debt, which represents the change in unrestricted net assets attributable to operations for the most recent year:

	and, (c) an annual budget that is preceded by sound planning, is subject to sound fiscal procedures,
	and is approved by the governing board.
	Audit requirements for applicant institutions may be found in the Commission policy entitled
	"Accreditation Procedures for Applicant Institutions. (Resources)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
2.12	The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan and demonstrates that the
	plan is part of an ongoing planning and evaluation process. (Quality Enhancement Plan). (Not
	applicable for the Compliance Certification submitted by institutions.
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Section 3 COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS

Institutional Mission, Governance, And Effectiveness

3.1 Institutional Mission

3.1.1	governing board; is periodically reviewed by the board; and is communicated to the institution=s constituencies.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2	Governance and Administration
3.2.1	The governing board of the institution is responsible for the selection and the evaluation of the chief executive officer.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.2	The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution=s governance structure:
	 3.2.2.1 the institution=s mission; 3.2.2.2 the fiscal stability of the institution; 3.2.2.3 institutional policy, including policies concerning related and affiliated corporate entities and all auxiliary services; 3.2.2.4 related foundations (athletic, research, etc.) and other corporate entities whose primary purpose is to support the institution and/or its programs.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.3	The board has a policy addressing conflict of interest for its members.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.4	The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies, and protects the institution from such influence.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:

3.2.5	Members of the governing board can be dismissed only for cause and by due process.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.6	There is a clear and appropriate distinction, in writing and practice, between the policy-making functions of the governing board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.7	The institution has a clearly defined and published organizational structure that delineates responsibility for the administration of policies.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.8	The institution has qualified administrative and academic officers with the experience, competence, and capacity to lead the institution.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.9	The institution defines and publishes policies regarding appointment and employment of faculty and staff.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.10	The institution evaluates the effectiveness of its administrators, including the chief executive officer, on a periodic basis.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.11	The institution=s chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over, the institution=s intercollegiate athletics program.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.12	The institution=s chief executive officer has ultimate control of the institution=s fund-raising activities.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance

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	Narrative:
3.2.13	Any institution-related foundation not controlled by the institution has a contractual or other formal agreement that (a) accurately describes the relationship between the institution and the foundation, and (b) describes any liability associated with that relationship. In all cases, the institution ensures that the relationship is consistent with its mission.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.2.14	The institution=s policies are clear concerning ownership of materials, compensation, copyright
	issues, and the use of revenue derived from the creation and production of all intellectual property.
	This applies to students, faculty and staff.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.3	Institutional Effectiveness
3.3.1	The institution identifies expected outcomes for its educational programs and its administrative and educational support services; assesses whether it achieves these outcomes; and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:

PROGRAMS

3.4 Educational Programs Standards for All Educational Programs

(Includes all on-campus, off-campus, and distance learning programs)

3.4.1	(a) is approved by the faculty and the administration, and (b) establishes and evaluates program and learning outcomes.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.2	The institution=s continuing education, outreach, and service programs are consistent with the institution=s mission.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.3	The institution publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.4	The institution has a defined and published policy for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit for transfer, experiential learning, advanced placement, and professional certificates that is consistent with its mission and ensures that course work and learning outcomes are at the collegiate level and comparable to the institution=s own degree programs. The institution assumes responsibility for the academic quality of any course work or credit recorded on the institution=s transcript.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.5	The institution publishes academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice. These are disseminated to students, faculty, and other interested parties through publications that accurately represent the programs and services of the institution.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.6	The institution employs sound and acceptable practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:

3.4.7	The institution ensures the quality of educational programs/courses offered through consortia relationships or contractual agreements, ensures ongoing compliance with the comprehensive requirements, and evaluates the consortial relationship and/or agreement against the purpose of the institution.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.8	The institution awards academic credit for course work taken on a noncredit basis only when there is documentation that the noncredit course work is equivalent to a designated credit experience.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.9	The institution provides appropriate academic support services.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.10	The institution defines and publishes general education requirements for its undergraduate programs and major program requirements for all its programs. These requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.11	The institution protects the security, confidentiality, and integrity of its student academic records and maintains special security measures to protect and back up data.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.12	The institution places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of its curriculum with its faculty.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.4.13	For each major in a degree program, the institution assigns responsibility for program coordination, as well as for curriculum development and review, to persons academically qualified in the field. In those degree programs for which the institution does not identify a major, this requirement applies to a curricular area or concentration.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:

3.4.14	The institution=s use of technology enhances student learning, is appropriate for meeting the objectives of its programs, and ensures that students have access to and training in the use of technology.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.5	Educational Programs: Undergraduate Programs
3.5.1	The institution identifies college-level competencies within the general education core and provides evidence that graduates have attained those competencies.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.5.2	The institution awards degrees only to those students who have earned at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree through instruction offered by that institution.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
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3.6	Educational Programs: Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional
3.6 Progr	rams
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Progr	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate
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Progr	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
3.6.1	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The institution ensures that its graduate instruction and resources foster independent learning,
3.6.1	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The institution ensures that its graduate instruction and resources foster independent learning, enabling the graduate to contribute to a profession or field of study.
3.6.1	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The institution ensures that its graduate instruction and resources foster independent learning, enabling the graduate to contribute to a profession or field of study. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The majority of credits toward a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree is earned through the institution awarding the degree. In the case of graduate and post-baccalaureate professional degree programs offered through joint, cooperative, or consortia arrangements, the student earns a majority of credits from the participating institutions.
3.6.1 3.6.2	The institution=s post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, and its master=s and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The institution ensures that its graduate instruction and resources foster independent learning, enabling the graduate to contribute to a profession or field of study. Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Narrative: The majority of credits toward a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree is earned through the institution awarding the degree. In the case of graduate and post- baccalaureate professional degree programs offered through joint, cooperative, or consortia arrangements, the

3.7 Faculty

3.7.1	The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, an institution gives primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline in accordance with the guidelines listed below. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including, as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards, continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.7.2	The institution regularly evaluates the effectiveness of each faculty member in accord with published criteria, regardless of contractual or tenured status.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.7.3	The institution provides evidence of ongoing professional development of faculty as teachers, scholars, and practitioners.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.7.4	The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
3.7.5	The institution publishes policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in academic and governance matters.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:

3.8 Library and Other Learning Resources

3.8.1	The institution provides facilities, services, and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission.		
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
3.8.2		ures that users have acce arning/information resourd	ess to regular and timely instruction in the use of the ces.
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
3.8.3			er of qualified staff—with appropriate education or formation resources—to accomplish the mission of the
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
3.9	Student Affai	rs and Services	
3.9.1	-	shes a clear and appropria tatement to the campus c	ate statement of student rights and responsibilities and ommunity.
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
3.9.2	The institution prote	ects the security, confider	itiality, and integrity of its student records.
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
3.9.3		des services supporting its of its student affairs progra	s mission with qualified personnel to ensure the quality ams.
	Compliance	Partial Compliance	Non-Compliance
	Narrative:		
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RESOURCES

3.10 Financial and Physical Resources

3.10.1	The institution=s recent financial history demonstrates financial stability.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.2	The institution provides financial statements and related documents, including multiple measures for determining financial health as requested by the Commission, that accurately and appropriately represent the total operation of the institution.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.3	The institution audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.4	The institution exercises appropriate control over all its financial and physical resources.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.5	The institution maintains financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.6	The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		
3.10.7	The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that are adequate to serve the needs of the institution=s educational programs, support services, and mission-related activities.		
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance		
	Narrative:		

Section 4 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1	mission, the institution includes, as appropriate, consideration of course completion, state licensing examinations, and job placement rates.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
4.0	
4.2	The institution maintains a curriculum that is directly related and appropriate to the purpose and goals of the institution and the diplomas, certificates, or degrees awarded.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
4.3	The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, and refund policies.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
4.4	The institution demonstrates that program length is appropriate for each of the degrees offered.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
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4.5	The institution has adequate procedures for addressing written student complaints and is responsible for demonstrating that it follows those procedures when resolving student complaints. (See Commission policy AThe Review of Complaints Involving the Commission or its Accredited Institutions.@)
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
4.6	Recruitment materials and presentations accurately represent the institution=s practices and policies.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
4.7	The institution publishes the name of its primary accreditor and its address and phone number.
	Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance

	Narrative:
4.8	The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the 1998 Higher Education Amendments. (In reviewing the institution=s compliance with these program responsibilities, the Commission relies on documentation forwarded to it by the Secretary of Education.) Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance
	Narrative:
1	