SACSCOC Definition of Substantive Change

“A significant expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution.”

It might not seem like a “significant” modification or expansion to you, but it might be viewed that way by SACSCOC.
Examples of Substantive Change

• Entering into a contract with an entity that is certified to participate in USDOE (i.e. dual degree program with another SACSCOC-accredited college or university)

• Entering into a contract with an entity that is not certified to participate in USDOE (i.e. dual degree program with an international college or university)
Examples of Substantive Change

• Adding programs at the current credential level (i.e. if a significant departure from current program offerings where new resources are required)

• Substantially altering program length (> or = 25%)

• Closing (inactivating) a program (requires a teach out plan and SACSCOC approval before admitting final cohort of students)
Not Considered Substantive Change

• Articulation agreements with other institutions, clinical agreements, or internship agreements

• Moving existing program from one division to another, in terms of its management
Some Questions to Help Identify Substantive Change

• Does this involve development of a new degree or certificate program?
• Does this involve instruction of courses delivered by GSU instructors/employees at an off-campus location?
• Does this involve the deactivation of a program or certificate?
• Does this potential substantive change involve a new off-campus instructional site?
• Does this potential substantive change include the closure of an off-campus instructional site?
GSU Substantive Change Policy

“Associate Provosts, Vice Presidents, Deans, and Directors have the fundamental responsibility to be generally aware of the substantive change policy, inform the University’s SACSCOC Liaison at the earliest point possible of proposals that may be considered a substantive change for the University, and provide the SACSCOC Liaison with any data, information, or prospectus necessary to comply with SACSCOC policy when requested.”
Your GSU SACSCOC Liaison

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Online Resources

(SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy)

• [https://app.gsu.edu/policies/index.cfm?view_policy=5585](https://app.gsu.edu/policies/index.cfm?view_policy=5585)
(GSU Substantive Change Policy in Policy Library)

• [http://senate.gsu.edu/ap-guide/review-process-list/substantive-change/](http://senate.gsu.edu/ap-guide/review-process-list/substantive-change/)
(GSU Senate process on Substantive Change)