



REACH Act Compliance Policy

Background

Act 26 of 2021, known as the Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage Act (REACH Act), requires undergraduate students of South Carolina public institutions of higher learning to complete a three-credit course in which students, at a minimum, read in their entirety the following Founding Documents:

- The United States Constitution
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- Five (5) Federalist Papers
- One or more documents foundational to the African American Struggle.

The General Assembly tasked the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to ensure the public institutions comply with REACH Act provisions and to collect information necessary from public institutions to ensure compliance.

REACH Act Compliance Policy

1. Institutions will develop and implement a review process, with CHE approval, to ensure that identified courses and syllabi fulfill the requirements of the REACH Act.
2. Each institution will submit a letter from the President or Provost annually by June 30th certifying compliance for the academic year. The letter will include a list of each course and the sections taught during the academic year.
3. A sample of the courses taught annually will be selected by CHE staff for an audit. Course syllabi for the audited sections will be requested from institutions and reviewed for compliance annually in July.
4. For courses found out of compliance with the REACH Act, institutions will develop and implement a plan to provide the missing content to affected students and include the plan in the annual letter.
5. If any audited course does not meet the REACH Act requirements, institutions will be required to submit all of their syllabi for review.

REACH Act Compliance Procedure

1. Institutions will develop and implement a review process to ensure that every section of each course identified for REACH Act compliance contains the required readings. Institutions shall share their review process with the CHE by September 30, 2022. These processes will be approved by the CHE.
2. Institutions will create a plan to provide any missing content to the student and certify that students complete all required readings for any noncompliant sections and inform the CHE staff of the noncompliant courses and sections, the plan to correct the deficiency and the status of the plan in the annual verification letter. If missing content is identified during the semester that the course is being taught, the correction is expected to be implemented during the same semester.
3. Annually, by June 30, institutions will provide a letter, signed by the Provost or President, to the CHE verifying the results of the review process for the prior academic year, along with a complete list of courses offered in the prior academic year that satisfy the REACH Act requirements. The list will contain the course number, section number, course title, and term. In addition, institutions shall mark sections taught by an instructor who did not teach a REACH Act course in any prior review (hereafter “new instructor”).
4. The CHE staff will identify a random set of courses (the larger of 10% of sections or ten sections) from the concluding academic year for review for each institution and request the syllabi by July 15.
5. Institutions will submit the syllabi for the random set and for each section taught by a new instructor by July 31.
6. CHE staff will review each syllabus for compliance with the REACH Act and will discuss any concerns with the institution. If CHE staff determine that any syllabus is out of compliance, beyond those previously identified, the institution will be required to submit a copy of every syllabus from a REACH Act course for review. In addition, the institution will be required to submit all REACH Act syllabi in subsequent years until all syllabi are found to be in compliance by CHE staff, at which point review will revert to the randomized selection of courses standard.
7. In the case that a section or is found to be out of compliance, the institution will develop and submit a plan to ensure that the affected students are given the opportunity to meet the REACH requirements without additional cost to the student.
8. CHE staff will prepare a final report outlining compliance by institution. The report will be shared with the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing (CAAL) and the full Commission prior to submission to the General Assembly in December of each year.

Approved by CHE Board August 5, 2022