

Part I. Overview

- A. Provide the names, addresses and current accreditations of the institutions involved in the change. Provide the proposed name of the new institution.
- B. Provide a timeline for the change. Discuss rationale for the change. Include the dates for state approval and implementation of the change along with supporting documentation. If applicable, briefly outline the process in place to ensure the continuing academic integrity of the institution.

Institutions Involved in Substantive Change

This substantive change document addresses the continued compliance of Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) with SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation* following its merger with the Capital Area Technical College (CATC). CATC is being merged with BRCC to form one institution, which will be known as Baton Rouge Community College. The merger unites two institutions that are both subject to the same management structure: the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors and the same governance structure: the Louisiana Board of Regents (BoR).

BRCC is a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accredited institution, located at 201 Community College Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806. BRCC's accreditation was reaffirmed in June 2009, following a site visit in October 2008.

Capital Area Technical College (CATC), located at 3250 N. Acadian Thruway East, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, is a Council on Occupational Education (COE) accredited institution. CATC's accreditation was reaffirmed in 2008.

Timeline and Rationale for the Change

During the 2005 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 505 ACT 506 ([Figure 1.1.1](#)) provided for the reorganization of vocational and technical education services within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. The legislation called for the Louisiana Commission of Higher Education to appoint an ad-hoc committee to research, prepare, and propose a plan for the reorganization of the technical colleges in Louisiana. As a result of the study, the Louisiana Board of Regents recommended the merger of technical campuses with community colleges. This recommendation reaffirmed the goal of continuing the development of comprehensive community and technical college services in each region of the state, services that are configured in a way to meet the unique needs and existing institutional capacity in each region.

During the 2012 Regular Session, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 ([Figure 1.1.2](#)) “urged and requested the Board of Regents (BoR) to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College (CATC) and Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) in order to more adequately address the educational needs of students and economic and workforce development needs of the greater Baton Rouge area.” In response to the Senate Concurrent Resolution, the Board of Regents (BoR) requested that FutureWorks Consulting, LLC conduct an analysis that would address the directives of the senate resolution and provide an assessment of how the region's

educational and workforce needs could best be met. The final analysis ([Figure 1.1.3](#)) is a compilation of industry and labor market analyses, extensive qualitative research gathered through individual and focus group interviews, and a review of secondary research on the economic, workforce, and higher education systems in the Baton Rouge region. The report outlines a clear path forward to align an educational delivery system for residents that will promote the regional economy through the merger of CATC with BRCC. In its conclusion, the FutureWorks analysis recommends *“that leaders in the region accelerate the process to merge CATC and BRCC”*.

BRCC’s analysis of the impact of the merger focused on its Strategic Goal VI: Enhance Responsiveness to Workforce and Community Needs ([Figure 1.1.4](#)) and corroborated FutureWork’s feasibility study. The Chancellor met with several focus groups comprised of business and industry leaders and heard area employers’ express their desire for community colleges to develop programs that train potential employees in advanced technologies. Business and industry leaders opined that a merger of Capital Area Technical College with Baton Rouge Community College would offer an opportunity to build deeper employer engagement, build pathways of educational credentials within key sectors, and be more responsive to fast changing needs in the economy.

The College reviewed a recent report by The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce ([Figure 1.1.5](#)) projecting that by 2018, 51 percent of the State of Louisiana’s jobs will require some type of postsecondary credential. The report further states that to meet industry demands, the state’s educational system will need to nearly double the number of credentialed working adults who hold a minimum of a two-year degree by 2018. Many of these labor needs will require programs that are not currently offered at BRCC but are available at CATC. Moreover, faculty and staff at BRCC recognize that an appropriately educated, credentialed workforce sends a strong message to existing companies and potential new companies that the region can meet their needs if they want to expand or locate to the region. Moreover, rising educational attainment is the surest way for the region and state to increase income and provide pathways out of poverty.

The Louisiana Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 45, which was signed into law by the Governor of Louisiana through Act No. 171 ([Figure 1.1.6](#)), and provides evidence of legal authority for the change. The Senate Bill stipulates that the merged institution will be known as Baton Rouge Community College and will be managed by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System’s Board of Supervisors and governed by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

BRCC’s Chancellor, Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller, informed SACSCOC of the merger in January 2013. BRCC subsequently prepared and submitted a Substantive Change Prospectus in April 2014. The Prospectus was reviewed and accepted by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees during their June 2014 meeting, and authorized a Substantive Change Committee visit to the campus in March 2015. This document has been prepared in accordance with the *Documentation for the Substantive Change Committee Guidelines*, and will be submitted to the Committee in January 2015 for their evaluation of continued compliance.

Continuance of Academic Integrity

To ensure that quality and integrity remain paramount throughout the merger, the restructuring of BRCC and CATC is occurring and is utilizing the *SACSCOC Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards* as the guiding framework. The substantive change is being led by Chancellor Miller, who has provided stability, guidance and direction to the planning and implementation of the merger.

Supporting Evidence

<u>Figure 1.1.1</u>	Louisiana Senate Bill 505 ACT 506
<u>Figure 1.1.2</u>	Louisiana Senate Current Resolution No. 17
<u>Figure 1.1.3</u>	FutureWorks Analysis
<u>Figure 1.1.4</u>	BRCC Strategic Planning Matrix
<u>Figure 1.1.5</u>	The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Report
<u>Figure 1.1.6</u>	Louisiana Senate Bill 45 ACT 171