

Regional Accreditation

Southern Association of Colleges
and Schools

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SACS Reaffirmation Leader

SACS Accreditation

“Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges signifies that the institution (1) has a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and (3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.”

SACS Accreditation

“Self-regulation through accreditation embodies a traditional U.S. philosophy that a free people can and ought to govern themselves through a representative, flexible, and responsive system.

Accordingly, accreditation is best accomplished through a voluntary association of educational institutions.”

Old vs. New SACS Requirements

- Old
 - Self-Study Report (intensive writing)
 - Extensive on-campus committee structure
- New
 - Compliance Audit (succinct and technical)
 - Small Compliance Team

Old vs. New SACS Requirements

- Old
 - 400+ prescriptive “must” statements
- New
 - 12 Core Requirements
 - 58 Comprehensive Standards
 - 7 Federal Mandates

Old vs. New SACS Requirements

- Old
 - Interview-based review
 - Visiting committee (15-20 members) onsite
- New
 - Evidenced-based review
 - 2 reviews (off and onsite)

Old vs. New SACCS Requirements

New

- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Old vs. New SACS Requirements

- Old
 - Several follow-ups allowed
 - No interim reports
- New
 - Limited follow-ups
 - QEP impact report
 - Interim Compliance Certification

Old vs. New SACS Requirements

- Old
 - Deficiencies in self-study did not affect reaffirmation
- New
 - Deficiencies in Compliance or QEP affect reaffirmation

Compliance Certification

- **Administrative process**
- **Ongoing process**
- **Submitted fifteen months prior to reaffirmation**

Compliance Certification

- **Institutional Integrity**
- **Core Requirements (12)**
- **Comprehensive Standards (58)**
- **Federal Requirements (7)**

QEP

- **Carefully designed and focused plan addressing a well-defined topic designed to enhance student learning**
- **Based on assessment and planning**
- **Faculty process**

QEP

- **Submitted six weeks prior to on-site visit**
- **Following approval, plan is implemented and monitored over a five year period**

QEP Examples

- *Improving Oral and Written Competencies*
- *Active Learning Pathways to Higher Order Thinking*
- *Intellectual Development of Rice Undergraduates in Urban Houston*

QEP Examples

- *Strengthening the Global Competence and Research Experiences of Undergraduate Students*
- *Strengthening Leadership Skills through Enhancement of Communication Skills*
- *Learning in a Technology-Rich Environment*

MSU/SACS Reaffirmation Schedule Class of 2014 (Track B)

Date	Activity
June 11, 2012	Orientation of MSU Leadership Team, Atlanta (Five people-CEO, Chief Academic Officer-SACS Liaison, Accreditation Leader, QEP representative, & CFO)
September 10, 2013	MSU Compliance Certification Due
November 3-6, 2013	Off-Campus Peer Review Conducted
4-6 weeks in advance of On-Site Review 2014	Quality Enhancement Plan (and Focused Report) Due
January 27- April 17, 2014	On-Site Peer Review Conducted
December 2014	Review by the Commission on Colleges