



PREPARING FOR SACSCOC ON-SITE PEER REVIEW VISIT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

CLASS OF 2024

SACSCOC



- Regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education
 - 11 Southern states
- peer review process
- institutional integrity
- quality enhancement
- continuous improvement
- student learning

- Class of 2024- Reaffirmation of Accreditation
- SACSCOC Liaison: Dr. Ricky Dobbs

Regional accreditation is the way the federal government ensures compliance with federal laws and mandates for higher education. Additionally, accreditation determines the institution's eligibility to receive federal and state funds, and our ability to transfer credits with other schools.



ACCREDITATION

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION



- An extensive self-study of all aspects of university life: Submitted September 2023
- 14 sub-committees, Office of Institutional Effectiveness
- 14 Sections, 72 Standards
- Reviewed by off-site peer reviewers in November 2023, feedback received late November 2023

- 18 Standards identified for Focused Report Response: Submit February 12, 2024
 - Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13
- Reviewed with the original Compliance Certification by the on-site reviewers prior to campus visit



FOCUSED REPORT

WHAT IS SACSCOC REAFFIRMATION?

A process that involves a collective analysis and judgment by the institution's internal constituencies, an informed review by peers external to the institution, and a reasoned decision by the elected members of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, reaffirmation of accreditation is the **process for ensuring that member institutions maintain continuing compliance with SACSCOC policies and with the Principles of Accreditation.**



SAVE THE DATES!

- Monday, March 25, 2024
 - Reviewers fly into Dallas, TX and travel to Greenville, X
 - Interviews as requested with faculty, staff, and administrators to resolve lingering issues such as assessment, credentials, policies, or student complaints.
- Tuesday, March 26, 2024
 - Reviewers begin assessment of Compliance Certification Report Interviews as requested with faculty, staff, and administrators to resolve lingering issues such as assessment credentials, policies, or student complaints.
 - Presentation to introduce the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to Reviewers.
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 - Interviews as requested with students, staff, and administrators to discuss campus buy-in and feasibility of the QEP. Reviewers make deliberations and decide on any final recommendations.
- Thursday, March 28, 2024
 - Exit interview with President Rudin, Executive Leadership Team, SACSCOC Liaison, other invitees at the hotel meeting room.
- December 7-10, 2024
 - Final results of the affirmation of reaccreditation are presented at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Austin, TX.

ON-SITE VISIT, COMMITTEE

- Occurs March 25-28, 2024
- Off Campus Instructional Site Reviewers will arrive on Sunday to visit RELLIS, other DFW Metroplex Sites
- Committee members are generally chancellors and provosts, administrators, and faculty members on other campuses in our region
 - They want to see us through a successful visit and reaffirmation of our accreditation status.
- Will be holding interviews with faculty, staff, students during their time here: please mark site visit dates on your calendar and be flexible and readily available.

Faculty and Staff Interview Preparation Sessions

Date	Time	Location
February 22	11:00 AM	Rayburn Student Center - Dedication
February 27	2:00 PM	Virtual - ZOOM
March 14	11:00 AM	Rayburn Student Center - Dedication

Student Interview Preparation Sessions

Date	Time	Location
February 28	12:00 PM	BA 343, Virtual - ZOOM
March 12	12:00 PM	BA 343, Virtual - ZOOM

OCIS Interview Preparation Sessions

Date	Time	Location
January 25	11:00 AM	Dallas, TBD
March 19	2:00 PM	Virtual - ZOOM

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Every SACSCOC institution is required to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which “identifies key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution.”

- **QEP Director: Dr. Eric Branscome**



PHASE 1: FOUNDATION

🌐 Purpose

- To provide students with a solid career *foundation* as they begin college

🌐 Overview

- All about “me”
- How do I fit in the careers that interest me?



PHASE 1: FOUNDATION

🌐 Courses

- CID 1300 & 2301 (university-wide courses that all students take)
- General Education (TBD)
- Career Orientation courses in the major

🌐 Assessments

- Career Survey (Focus2) and reflection essay
- Career Portfolio (SkillsFirst)







🌐 Activities

- Career Fairs



Self Assessment

Discover majors and occupations that match your personal attributes

 Work Interest Assessment START	 Values Assessment START
 Personality Assessment START	 Skills Assessment START
 Leisure Assessment START	Combine Assessments 0/5 Completed 

PHASE 2: FRAMEWORK

🌐 Purpose

- To build upon the solid foundation with a *framework* that provides students with the skills, content and competencies for a successful future [and]
- To prepare students for the possibility of a “plan B”

🌐 Overview

- Refine skills, knowledge and competencies
- Broaden students’ awareness of career options (help them explore new possibilities)

PHASE 2: FRAMEWORK

- Courses
 - Mid-level in the major
- Assessments
 - Career-oriented key assessments
 - Skills, knowledge and competencies
- Activities
 - Support services
 - Career Portfolio (continued development)



PHASE 3: CAPSTONE

🌐 Purpose

- To launch students successfully into their careers

🌐 Overview

- To synthesize prior knowledge and skill development in a capstone experience
- To engage students in job-imbedded experiences

PHASE 3: CAPSTONE

🌐 Courses

- Capstone (Synthesis) courses in the major

🌐 Assessments

- Capstone experiences (Internships, clinical teaching, practica...)
- Complete the SkillsFirst portfolio

🌐 Activities

- Career Fairs
- Forage mock job interviews
- Hire-a-Lion / LinkedIn



Forage

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- Courses in each major
- The “Career Ready” QEP Certificate
- Non-Curricular Activities
 - Office of Student Career Preparedness
 - Arthur Lumzy
- Focus Group: 2FTFG
- Mentorship (Survey from IER in Fall 2023)



From Student Access & Success

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH COMMITTEE

- **Operate with integrity in all matters** related to SACSCOC. This is in the Principles of Accreditation, Section 1 and something on which we are assessed.
- A specific group of individuals on campus will be scheduled for interviews on Tuesday, March 26th and Wednesday, March 27th.
 - **Wear your A&M-Commerce name tag during the visit.**
 - **Always be courteous and helpful, yet refrain from initiating a conversation with the team members.**
 - **Answer only the question that is asked during your interview.**
 - **Do not guess or make assumptions in the interviews. If you do not know the answer to a question, refer the team member to Dr. Ricky Dobbs for further information.**



MISSION STATEMENT



Educate. Discover.
Achieve.



NEW MISSION STATEMENT



We Transform Lives

ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS BY COMMITTEE

- Keep your schedule as flexible as possible in case you are called to be interviewed by the SACSCOC On-Site Committee Review Team related to your area of university responsibility. If so, please bring copies of whatever documents are requested and be prepared to answer hard questions.
- The areas they are most likely to investigate include:
 - QEP – including meeting with various constituents to see how the Plan is going to move our university forward.
 - Assessment – including possible meetings with program coordinators and those charged with assessment on campus.
 - Any lingering compliance issues - academic assessment, faculty credentials, admission policies, or academic credit and review.

PREPARING FOR ON-SITE: FACULTY AND STAFF

- If you teach courses, educate students about the upcoming reaffirmation site-visit and the QEP topic.
- Have a basic understanding of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Foundation for Your Future.
- Know the basic concepts in our Mission Statement.
- Review SACSCOC principles that are pertinent to your area of responsibility: Faculty – principles related to “Educational Programs” and “Faculty”.
- Read and review the Talking Points for Faculty and Staff, Examples of Questions

PREPARING FOR ON-SITE: STUDENTS

- Have a basic understanding of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), **Foundation for Your Future**.
- Know the basic concepts in our **Mission Statement**.
- Read and review the *Talking Points for Students, Examples of Questions resources on the IE Webpage*.
- If questioned or interviewed by a site visitor, answer honestly. If you do not know the answer, just say so and ask for time to find out. Focus on the positive attributes of the university and the strategies that are in place for areas needing improvement.
- Dress nicely, wear your name tag, and please leave your phone and ear buds in another room or turned off.

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AVAILABLE RESOURCES

A&M-Commerce

- SACSCOC Reaffirmation Webpage
 - Institutional On-Site Visit Handbook
 - Preparing for On-Site Visit PPT Slides
 - Interviewer Training PPT Slides
 - Schedule for information and training sessions
 - Reaffirmation On-Site Visit Schedule
- Interview preparation sessions
- General University informational sessions

SACSCOC

- [Handbook for Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation](#)
- [Principles of Accreditation, Resource Manual](#)
- [Quality Enhancement Plan Policy](#)
- [Reviewing the Quality Enhancement Plan](#)

**THANK YOU! A&M-COMMERCE'S
SUCCESSFUL REAFFIRMATION IS DUE TO
YOUR EFFORTS EVERY DAY!**

