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Accreditation Update - October 2024

1 message

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ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Your Roadmap to Successfully Navigating SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Changing Seasons

As summer closes, so does the season of preparing narratives for our reaffirmation of accreditation.

Following our successful Advisory

Visit with Dr. Lynne Crosby and feedback from external consultants, the summer was spent polishing narratives, collecting remaining pieces of evidence, and conducting a final quality check of thousands of links between narratives and evidence. Then, the moment we have all been waiting for [deep breath]...on Friday, September 6th at 1:49 PM, our Compliance Certification, along with supporting materials, was electronically uploaded to the SACSCOC portal.



The final Compliance Certification and supporting documentation included approximately 5,000 files; 50,000 pages; and if printed and stacked would be over 24 feet tall! Around mid-November, Georgia Southern will receive our first round of feedback on the fruits of our labor from the SACSCOC Off-Site Review Committee.

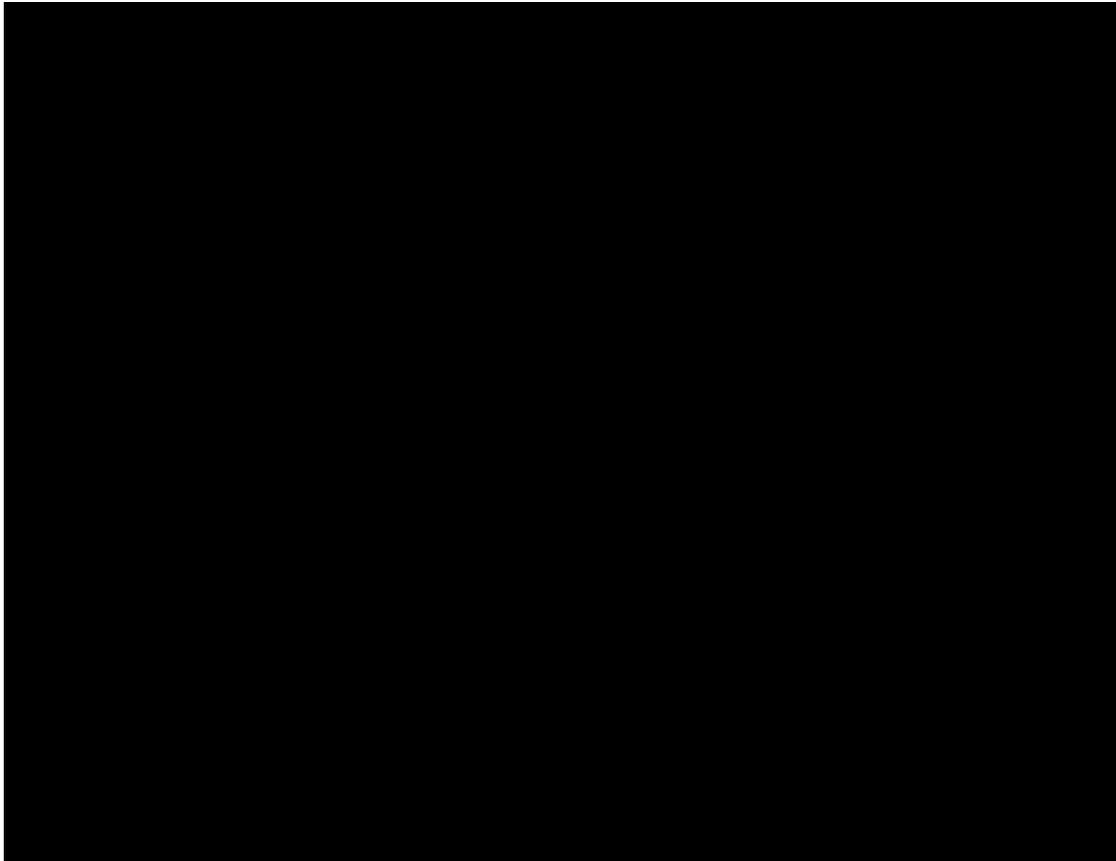
*Image credit: AI Generated with Magic Media via Canva

STATUS UPDATE: We are in Phase 5 SACSCOC Peer Review

With autumn upon us, we now turn a new leaf in our reaffirmation preparation. Over the next academic year, Georgia Southern will undergo both an Off-Site and On-Site Review in *Phase 5: Quality Check and SACSCOC Peer Review*, the last phase

before our reaffirmation is announced in 2025. We are ready to Soar Beyond expectations as our On-Site Review approaches in March 2025.

Appreciating our journey through these seasons of the reaffirmation process, a special thanks to the more than 130 individuals who contributed to our Compliance Certification!



We encourage you to review Georgia Southern narratives relevant to your areas and celebrate our collective efforts.

2025 Compliance Certification Narratives

SACSCOC On-Site Review

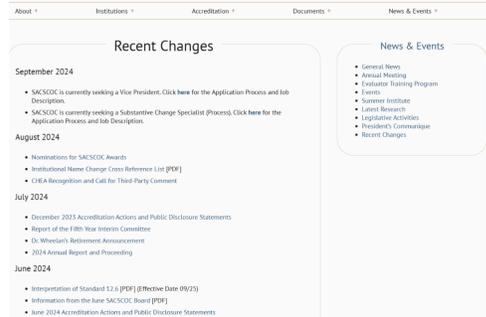
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MONTHS WEEKS DAYS

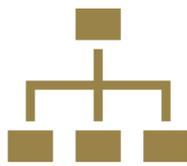
Time until our On-Site Review as of 10/14/2024. View live countdown [here](#).

Did you Know?

SACSCOC releases important updates on its [Recent Changes](#) web page. In addition to the *Principles of Accreditation*, SACSCOC publishes guidance regarding institutional accreditation in handbooks, position statements, policy documents, and interpretations. Following its last Board of Trustees meeting in June, SACSCOC released a [new interpretation for Standard 12.6](#) (*Student debt and financial literacy*), effective September 2025.



Section 9: Education Program Structure & Content



9.1 Educational programs

- (a) embody a coherent **course of study**
- (b) are compatible with the stated **mission** and **goals**
- (c) are based upon **fields of study** appropriate to **higher education** (*Program content*)

Essential Components for Compliance:

Educational programs, coherent, compatible, mission, goals, appropriate to higher education

Curriculum Matters: Educational Program Development

Georgia Southern’s comprehensive curriculum review process is faculty driven to ensure new programs meet SACSCOC expectations of coherence as well as the level of rigor and knowledge appropriate to higher education. When new programs are developed initial discussions begin at the department level, often in consultation with the college dean. The final decision is informed by analytics such as the *Academic Forecast*, employment information, student demand, and a potential program’s alignment with both the mission and goals of Georgia Southern as well as University System of Georgia (USG) initiatives and regional needs.



Selected programs must request approval from the USG to proceed with a formal proposal. This formal proposal must then be vetted through Georgia Southern’s curriculum process, securing approvals at the departmental, college, and institutional level curriculum

committees and then moving onto Faculty Senate, the Provost, and President before proposals exit the institution for final review and approval by the USG and SACSCOC. The multistage and multilevel collaborative process for new program development enhances educational quality through program coherence, mission alignment, and appropriateness for higher education as outlined in SACSCOC Standard 9.1.

Upcoming Events

Fall Team Lead Meetings

Wednesday, October 9
Wednesday, October 23
Wednesday, November 20

2024 SACSCOC Annual Meeting

December 7-10, 2024
Austin, Texas

SACSCOC Off-Site Review
September 27 - November 8, 2024

SACSCOC On-Site Review
March 10-13, 2025

And our October newsletter winner is...

Christy Moore

(Department of Clinical Science)

Email assessment@georgiasouthern.edu within 30 days to claim your prize.



Institutional Assessment and Accreditation (IAA) works collaboratively with faculty, staff, and administration to ensure the quality of the programs and educational experiences offered by the university, addressing the unique assessment needs of courses, departments, colleges, or units through individual and group consultations, professional development workshops, recommendations for technology implementation, and best practice reference materials.

Assessment Services Request

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Enter to win a prize!

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