

# UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2017

### ***Welcome Back!***

We hope you had a restful summer! We know it has been a few months since you thought about assessment, so we wanted to remind you about our assessment webpages—the repository for all-things-assessment at UTM.

Our main webpage for accreditation and assessment is <http://www.utm.edu/assessment/>. To the left in the gray box, there are links to information about program accreditation and SACSCOC accreditation. The “assessment” link takes you to our archive of assessment newsletters, the UT Martin Planning, Assessment, and Reporting Calendar, and information about our Assessment Coordination Committees. At the bottom of this page, there is a link to our SharePoint site where we house all of our institutional assessment reports, SACSCOC reports, and feedback reports. Use your UTM credentials to access the SharePoint site. Finally, the “forms” link in the gray box takes you to all of our reporting forms.

Please contact Stephanie Kolitsch or Patty Flowers if you have any questions regarding assessment. We are happy to help!

### ***SACSCOC Annual Meeting—Request for Participants***

The 2017 SACSCOC Annual Meeting will be held in Dallas, TX, on December 2-5 (the last week of classes this semester). Information about the meeting can be found on the SACSCOC website: <http://www.sacscoc.org/aamain.asp>. Dr. Carver has agreed to support travel for two people (faculty or staff) to attend this meeting.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please send an email to Stephanie Kolitsch ([styler@utm.edu](mailto:styler@utm.edu)) and Patty Flowers ([pflowers@utm.edu](mailto:pflowers@utm.edu)) that includes:

- your name
- your department and position

- a few sentences that describe why you are interested in attending and what you hope to gain from the experience.

Emails indicating your interest in attending are due Friday, September 15.

If you are chosen to attend the meeting, we will work with you and Dr. Carver’s office to get you registered and help with travel arrangements. After the SACSCOC meeting, we ask that you submit a written account of your activities and experiences during the meeting for publication in a future assessment newsletter. (Full disclosure: we are beginning preliminary planning for our 10<sup>th</sup> year SACSCOC Accreditation Report due in 2023. There is a very good chance that faculty and staff chosen to attend SACSCOC meetings will be at the top of our list of go-to people for these working committees in a couple of years.)

### ***Upcoming Due Dates!***

Academic units—**your academic program Student Learning Outcome (SLO) reports, general education assessment reports, faculty achievement reports, research/scholarly activity, and outreach reports are due October 1, 2017.** If you have questions about any of these reports, contact Stephanie or Patty.

**Administrative support services reports are due December 15, 2017, and student support services reports are due January 15, 2018.**

Now is also a good time to review your assessment guidebook. If your unit makes any substantial changes to your assessment guidebook, please submit those changes to Patty.

### ***Congratulations to the Tennessee Intensive English Program!***

The UT Martin Tennessee Intensive English Program (TIEP) has been accredited by the Commission on English Language Program

Accreditation through August 2021. This is a remarkable achievement for our program. Congratulations to the TIEP faculty, staff, and students for achieving the high standards required for accreditation!

***Update on the SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report***

We have been notified by SACSCOC of some changes to the due dates associated with Fifth Year Interim Reports. Because of the anticipated changes in the *Principles of Accreditation*, due dates and expectations for the reports have been changed slightly. UT Martin is a Track B institution (meaning we offer some graduate degrees) in the reaffirmation class of 2023 (the year of our next full reaccreditation site visit), so our new due date is March 15, 2019 (not 2018 as previously reported). According to SACSCOC documents: “*Institution will be expected to use the newly-updated Fifth-Year Interim Report. If institution has a Fifth-Year Follow Up Report, it will be expected to submit compliance documentation in accord with the new standards cross-walked by staff.*”

For us, this is almost all good news. The year’s delay will allow us to include:

- information about this semester’s strategic planning process (including any revisions to the mission statement, our institutional values and goals, and/or our updated strategic plan);
- two years of assessment reporting following last year’s Monitoring Report; and

- information about our new general education learning outcomes and the process we have followed to put those in place.

The downside is that we will need to do some substantial restructuring of the narratives we have already done in order to show that UTM meets the revised requirements; there are also at least two new standards associated with the Fifth Year Interim Report that we have not addressed in the past. We cannot begin this restructuring in earnest until December when the revised *Principles of Accreditation* are finalized and adopted; however, we will spend this semester preparing for the revisions and collecting appropriate supporting documentation in anticipation of the expected changes. (If you would like to see the proposed revised *Principles of Accreditation*, please visit <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>. We hope that a crosswalk between the current *Principles* and the revised version will be posted soon.)

In the meantime, the chart below shows the progress we made this summer in completing the Fifth Year Interim Report based on the current standards. Thank you to everyone who answered our call for supporting documents and additional information! We will continue to contact units for additional information that we *know* we will need for our report; after the December meeting, we will tailor our requests to fit the approved set of standards.

