

# UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2018

### *Spotlight on New SACSCOC Principles*

The updated *Principles of Accreditation* are now available on the SACSCOC website: <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2018PrinciplesOfAccreditation.pdf>, accompanied by a revised *Resource Manual* designed to provide rationales, clarifying notes, guiding questions to consider, references to SACSCOC documents and policies, and cross references to related standards and requirements: <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2018%20POA%20Resource%20Manual.pdf>.

Because of the changes to the *Principles of Accreditation*, the Fifth-Year Report will be adjusted to meet the revised standards. To see a crosswalk between the old and the new standards for the Fifth-Year Interim Report, please see the SACSCOC webpage: <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2018%20Crosswalk%20fifth-year.pdf>. Here, we will highlight some of the wording changes in the standards and discuss how this affects our Fifth-Year Report.

### *Student Support Services*

Old Standard 2.10: The institution provides student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission that are intended to promote student learning and enhance the development of its students.

New Standard 12.1: The institution provides appropriate academic and student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission.

The wording of the standard has changed to explicitly include “academic support.” The insertion of the word “appropriate” allows us to describe how the provided support programs, services, and activities align with our mission and goals as relates to the educational and personal development experiences of students. This shifts the responsibility of defining “appropriate” from the reviewer to the institution (which is in our best interest).

### *Qualified Administrative/Academic Officers*

Old Standard 3.2.8 The institution has qualified administrative and academic officers with the experience and competence to lead the institution.

New Standard 5.4. The institution employs and regularly evaluates administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution.

The new wording explicitly requires a discussion of how and when we evaluate administrative and academic officers. In this standard, “administrative and academic officers” refers to leaders of major units (usually, dean-level and above).

### *Physical Facilities/Physical Resources*

Old Standard 3.11.3: The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities.

New Standard 13.7: The institution ensures adequate physical facilities and resources, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities.

Note the insertion of the phrase “and resources” in the revised standard. This phrase requires us to discuss not only the physical buildings, but also the overall conditions of the classrooms, laboratories, libraries, offices, and computer network infrastructure including portal management and learning management systems.

In some cases, the wording of a particular standard did not change at all:

### *Institutional Environment*

Old Standard 3.11.2, New Standard 13.8: The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.

We will provide additional comparisons of new vs. old standards in upcoming newsletters.

**Reminder! Upcoming SACSCOC Meetings**

<p>Summer Institute: July 22-25, Atlanta</p> <p>Annual Meeting: December 8-11, New Orleans</p>
--

Dr. Brian Wagner attended the December 2017 SACSCOC Annual Meeting. Here is what he learned:

*The theme “Students Are the HEART of Education” for the December 2017 SACSCOC Annual Meeting was intriguing. However, with it being my first SACSCOC meeting, I did not know how much I would be able to take away from the meeting that I could directly apply to my students. At the meeting, there were different tracks that attendees could follow based on their primary roles on campus, so I focused on the faculty track. I attended sessions on topics ranging from better practices using rubrics to improving critical thinking. I have already implemented some of things that I learned both in and out of the classroom.*



*The keynote speakers are well chosen. One of the speakers, Curt Steinhorst, spoke on the*

*different generations. The current traditional-aged college student is in Generation Z. Have you noticed how current students communicate with you? You are probably receiving very few phone calls. Generation Z generally prefers face-to-face communication but will do text-based when face-to-face is not possible.*

*In conclusion, any faculty member can benefit from attending a SACSCOC meeting. Though assessment seems to be the keyword on which many focus, the true goal is student success. You will come back from the meeting with ways that you can better prepare students to succeed both in the classroom and beyond.*

**Reminder! Assessment Day**

<p><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p><i>Deadline to notify Assessment Office that you need a display board: March 30</i></p> <p><i>Deadline to submit completed entry form: April 13</i> (See the bottom of this page for an entry form)</p> <p><b>SCHOLARFEST ASSESSMENT DAY:</b> <b>APRIL 20, 2018 11:30 – 2:00</b> <b>UC Ballroom</b></p>
--



**Scholarfest Assessment Day Poster Entry Form**  
**DUE FRIDAY APRIL 13**

<b>Name of Unit:</b>	
<b>Poster Title:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Campus Address:</b>	
<b>Do you need a tri-fold poster board? (Yes / No)</b>	

Please return your entry form to Stephanie Kolitsch ([styler@utm.edu](mailto:styler@utm.edu)) or Patty Flowers ([pflowers@utm.edu](mailto:pflowers@utm.edu)) in the SACS Accreditation Office (310 Administration Building).