UWF SACS REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION PROJECT

Compliance Certification Task Forces Orientation Meeting
September 9, 2003
Components of the Review

- Certification of Compliance (CC) with standards for accreditation.
- Off-site peer review of CC.
- Focused Report on compliance concerns.
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) with focus on student learning.
- On-site peer review of QEP and compliance concerns.
Critical Dates

- June 9, 2003—Orientation of Leadership Team.
- September 9, 2003—Orientation of Compliance Certification Task Forces.
- August 15, 2004—Compliance Certification document due to SACS.
- November 8-10, 2004—Off-site peer review of Compliance Certification.
- January 2005—Quality Enhancement Plan due to SACS.
- January 2005—Focused Report due to SACS.
- March 2005—On-site peer review.
- December 2-6, 2005—Action on reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS/COC.
Focus on Student Learning

_Student learning_ defined as “changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and/or values that are attributable to the collegiate experience.”
Compliance Certification

For each of the standards for accreditation UWF will be asked to:

- Identify whether the University is in compliance with the standard.
- Prepare a “compelling argument” justifying the compliance rating.
- Submit appropriate documentation in support of the compelling argument.
Additional UWF Expectation

- Identification of ways in which the University can improve the quality of its programs and services even though the standard has been rated “in compliance.”
Application to All Standards

♥Includes all on-campus, off-campus, and distance learning programs.
♥For any standard requiring a policy or procedure, the policy or procedure must be appropriately approved, be in writing, be published, and be implemented and enforced.
♥Define key evaluative terms.
The Revised SACS Standards

- Reduced the number of standards from over 450 to 73.
- Grouped the standards under three major categories:
  - Core Requirements,
  - Comprehensive Standards, and
  - Federal Mandates.
Comprehensive Standards

- Institutional Mission, Governance, and Effectiveness.
- Programs.
- Resources.
Comprehensive Standards: Programs

- Educational Programs:
  - All educational programs,
  - Undergraduate programs, and
  - Graduate and post-baccalaureate professional programs.
- Faculty.
- Library and Learning Resources.
- Student Affairs and Services.
Core Requirement 5 (UWF #2-5)

The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that incorporate a systematic review of programs and services that (a) results in continuing improvement and (b) demonstrates that the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission.
Comprehensive Standard 16
(UWF #3.1.3-16)

The institution identifies expected outcomes for its education programs and its administrative and educational support services; assesses whether it achieves these outcomes; and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results.
The institution’s policies are clear concerning ownership of materials, compensation, copyright issues, and the use of revenue derived from the creation and production of all intellectual property. This applies to students, faculty, and staff.
Core Requirement 8 (UWF #2-8)

The number of full-time faculty members is *adequate* to support the mission of the institution. The institution has *adequate* faculty resources to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs.
The institution demonstrates that each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is (a) approved by the faculty and the administration, and (b) establishes and evaluates program and learning outcomes.
The institution publishes academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice. These are disseminated . . .
The institution provides facilities, services, and other learning/information resources that are **appropriate** to support its teaching, research, and service mission.
Student Affairs and Services 30  
(UWF #3.2.4-30)

The institution provides services supporting its mission with qualified personnel to ensure the quality and effectiveness of its student affairs programs.
The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that are adequate to serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and mission-related activities.
Sample Standards:
Federal Mandate 1 (UWF #4-1)

When evaluating success with respect to the institution’s mission, the institution includes, as appropriate, consideration of course completion, state licensing examinations, and job placement rates.
Project Organization
(Who’s doing the work?)

- Leadership Team.
- University-wide Steering Committee.
- Academic Programs Steering Committee.
- Compliance Certification Task Forces.
- Quality Enhancement Plan Task Force.
- UWF SACS Project staff.
Compliance Certification Task Forces

- Governance & Administration.
- Planning & Evaluation.
- General Education.
- Undergraduate Programs.
- Graduate Programs.
- Continuing Education.
Compliance Certification Task Forces (continued)

- Enrollment Services.
- Faculty.
- Library/Learning/Information Resources.
- Student Support Services.
- Resources.
- Development.
Compliance Certification
Task Forces

SACS Project Management
Carl Backman
Rosemary Hays-Thomas
Scott Marzilli

Compliance Certification Document

Task Force Facilitator
Scott Marzilli
- Governance and Admin
- Library/ Learning/ Information Resources
- Student Support Services

Task Force Facilitator
Rosemary Hays-Thomas

Task Force Facilitator
Carl Backman
- Planning and Evaluation
- Enrollment Services
- Resources
- Development

Academic Programs
- General Education
- Undergrad Programs
- Graduate Programs
- Continuing Education
- Faculty
Submission of Documents to SACS

- Documents submitted electronically.
- Web Site designed for:
  - Use by SACS peer review teams.
  - Use by UWF SACS task forces in preparation of required reports.
  - Posting faculty vitae and course syllabi.
  - Providing accreditation information to the campus community.
Project Contacts

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