

# Reaffirmation of Accreditation

## University of Louisville

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2007

### **Accreditation – What is it?**

Accreditation is a voluntary and self-regulatory mechanism of the higher education community. It plays a significant role in fostering public confidence in the educational enterprise, in maintaining standards, in enhancing institutional effectiveness, and improving higher education. The university must be accredited to receive federal financial aid. It also provides the basis on which colleges and universities can be assured that accredited institutions have complied with a common set of requirements and standards.

*Source: Overview of Accreditation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools*

### **Reaffirmation Process**

UofL is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The university will be considered for reaffirmation of our accreditation in 2007. President James Ramsey and Assistant University Provost Dan Mahony, the SACS accreditation liaison will serve as co-chairs of the UofL Leadership Team. Additionally, the Compliance Certification and Quality Enhancement Plan Teams comprised of university faculty, staff and students will work to insure the successful completion of the reaffirmation process.

### **Compliance Certification**

The Principles of Accreditation adopted by SACS direct the assessment of compliance with the 12 Core requirements and 61 Comprehensive Standards. Seven subcommittees will review and evaluate compliance. The Compliance Certification Team will compile subcommittee reports and the necessary documentation or evidence to certify compliance. This process is in contrast to the 1997 reaffirmation which required an intensive institutional self-study.

### **Quality Enhancement Plan**

The Principles of Accreditation require each university to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). SACS describes the QEP as an “opportunity and an impetus for the institution to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning.” SACS adds that the QEP should complement the institution’s ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process. Also, SACS emphasizes the development of a QEP that addresses student learning will require a significant commitment from the entire university community.

### **Quality Enhancement Plan Team**

A QEP team chaired by Dr. Julia Dietrich of the College of Arts and Sciences has been appointed. The team will work to identify potential focus areas related to student learning. The team is comprised of faculty, staff and students from across the university. After a focus area is selected the team will begin writing the plan, identify necessary actions to achieve the goals of the plan, develop a budget, and assessment plan to evaluate the impact of the QEP. The plan must be ready to submit to SACS by January 2007.

### **What Now?**

The immediate task is to identify possible QEP topics and then to evaluate which one is most viable. Wide-spread university involvement in creating the list of topics is vital. The topics will be evaluated and discussed with the university community prior to the development of the draft QEP. Please email: [sacs2007@louisville.edu](mailto:sacs2007@louisville.edu) with your QEP recommendations.

**We need to hear from YOU!**



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