



ROAD TO SACSCOC REAFFIRMATION

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



What is Reaffirmation of Accreditation?

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' (SACSCOC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation is a comprehensive internal and external review process to ensure that member institutions maintain continuing compliance with Commission policies and with [The Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement](#).

According to SACSCOC, "At the heart of SACSCOC's philosophy of accreditation, the concept of quality enhancement presumes each member institution is to be engaged in ongoing improvement of its programs and services and be able to demonstrate how well it fulfills its stated mission. Although evaluation of an institution's educational quality and effectiveness in achieving its mission is a difficult task requiring careful analysis and professional judgment, an institution is expected to document the quality and effectiveness of all its programs and services."

Newsletter Archive

Missed a Newsletter? No problem! Visit our OAAE website to catch up on all past issues

- [December 2024](#)
- [January 2025](#)
- [February 2025](#)
- [March 2025](#)
- [April 2025](#)
- [May 2025](#)

SACSCOC SITE VISIT SAVE THE DATE!!

While there is much work to be done between now and the SACSCOC On-site Reaffirmation Committee visit, please mark your calendars.

MARCH 24th - 26th, 2026

STANDARD SHOWCASE:

Standard of the Month

SECTION 2: Mission 2.1: Institutional Mission

Standard 2.1 The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service.

Baylor College of Medicine has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement that is appropriate for higher education and addresses, teaching, learning, research, and public service. The clearly defined mission of Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), “Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university that creates knowledge and applies science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally”, focuses on leveraging the College’s preeminent research to advance the comprehensive four-part mission of academic medicine: research, healthcare, education, and service.

Publication of the Mission Statement

The mission statement is published on the BCM website, in public areas of the College, within the College’s Strategic Plan, and in brochures including the “Information for Applicants” brochure, and the “Fast Facts” brochure, which is given to prospective students for all programs across both campuses. The mission is included in the Faculty Handbook and degree program’s Academic Catalogs.

Mission: Appropriate for an Institution of Higher Education

The Baylor College of Medicine mission is appropriate to higher education with its focus on the creation of knowledge and application of science and discoveries to further education. The mission is applicable to all of BCM’s programs across its four schools and two campuses with programs which focus on health sciences.

BCM, through its programs, advances the “creates knowledge” core part of its mission and allows for exposure to numerous clinical and research fields. These environments position BCM to drive the second part of the mission statement “applies science and discoveries to further education.” By educating the students and trainees in a robust and diverse healthcare and research environment that is home to many hospitals and research centers ranked among the best in the nation, as listed on the Texas Medical Center website, our graduates, faculty, and staff are better prepared to fulfill the Baylor mission on both a local and global scale. The partnership between Baylor College of Medicine and its industry affiliates allows trainees to receive a unique educational experience with exposure to various fields of science with these state-of-the-art facilities.



STANDARD SHOWCASE:

Standard of the Month

SECTION 2: Mission 2.1: Institutional Mission

Mission: Addresses Teaching and Learning

The College's mission statement is centered on teaching and learning: Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university that creates knowledge and applies science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally. The College's degree programs highlights an array of educational programs within the health sciences including degree programs across four schools, the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in biomedical sciences (Cancer & Cell Biology, Chemical, Physical & Structural Biology, Development, Disease Models & Therapeutics, Genetics & Genomics, Immunology & Microbiology, Neuroscience, and Quantitative & Computational Biosciences), the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.), Master of Science (M.S.) in biomedical sciences, Master of Science, Orthotics and Prosthetics (M.S.O.P.), and Master of Science, Physician Assistant Studies (M.S.P.A.) and Master of Science, Genetic Counseling (M.S.G.C.).

Mission: Addresses Research

The College's mission statement emphasizes that the College "create knowledge," which is accomplished through faculty and student research. In addition, the College's vision is to "improve health through science, scholarship, and innovation". Its values also include:

- Cultivate creative ideas and unique talents across the organization
- Inspire the creation and application of new knowledge

Each of these areas is accomplished through faculty and student research.

Mission: Addresses Public Service

Community service is an integral part of BCM's mission as expressed in its own mission statement: "creates knowledge and applies science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally".

Among the values enumerated in the College's Values are several focused on public service and community relations:

- Value others and treat them with professionalism, courtesy and politeness
- Encourage civil dialogue that considers diverse opinions and ideas
- Interact with honesty, consistency and transparency
- Operate in ways that demonstrate ethical behaviors
- Promote the highest standards of safety, quality and service

Mission: Distinct from Other Institutions

Baylor College of Medicine is a private health sciences university with its main campus in Houston located in the middle of the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest medical center, with numerous local and state affiliations and joint ventures with CommonSpirit Health. BCM's branch campus in Temple, Texas is partnered with Baylor Scott & White Health, one of the nation's largest non-profit healthcare systems.

An example of how BCM is furthering education is shown in the expansion of the educational services offered at the College. The development of the National School of Tropical Medicine, one of the first established in North America dedicated exclusively to education, research, healthcare and advocacy related to neglected tropical diseases, clearly demonstrates how BCM is creating knowledge in a relatively neglected field and educating students to apply this knowledge globally to help the billions of people who are afflicted with these diseases, as outlined on the School of Tropical Medicine's website.

STANDARD SHOWCASE:

Standard of the Month

SECTION 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

14.1: Publication of Accreditation Status

Standard 14.1 The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC's requirements and federal policy and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation is dependent on the continued accreditation of the parent campus.

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the SACSCOC name, address, and telephone number of SACSCOC in accordance with Commission requirements and federal policy. Information is published consistently across publications and web pages. BCM ensures that its branch campus in Temple, Texas includes the name of the institution and makes clear that its accreditation depends on the continued accreditation of the main campus.

Accurate Representation of Accreditation Status

BCM publishes its accreditation status on its website and in print materials to ensure that students, faculty, staff, College stakeholders, and the community are aware of the College's accreditation status. BCM has one website for both campuses.

BCM reports its accreditation status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges on its accreditation homepage on the public website, as detailed below.

- *Baylor College of Medicine is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award masters and doctorate degrees. Baylor College of Medicine also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Baylor College of Medicine may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).*

This statement accurately represents that BCM is accredited by SACSCOC to award master's and doctorate degrees. It includes the Commission's name, address and telephone number, and clearly states that the Commission may be contacted regarding questions about BCM's SACSCOC accreditation status.


SACSCOC Accreditation

The following statement must be included on any internal or external college publication that references Baylor College of Medicine's accreditation status:

Baylor College of Medicine is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award master's and doctorate degrees. Degree-granting institutions may also offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Baylor College of Medicine may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on [SACSCOC's website](http://www.sacscoc.org).

Branch Campus

Baylor College of Medicine School of Medicine – Temple is a branch campus of Baylor College of Medicine located in Temple, Texas, and is dependent on the continued accreditation of the parent campus located in Houston, Texas.



*As depicted on BCM website

STANDARD SHOWCASE:

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SECTION 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

14.1: Publication of Accreditation Status

In addition to the accreditation page, the statement of BCM's SACSCOC accreditation status appears on multiple public BCM web pages. Accurate representation of BCM's SACSCOC accreditation status is publicly available in student recruitment materials.

Branch Campus Representation of Accreditation Status Related to Parent Campus

As noted above, BCM's branch campus in Temple, Texas houses some of the students in the Doctor of Medicine program. The appropriate accreditation webpage and other pertinent artifacts indicate the following:

- *Baylor College of Medicine is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award master's and doctorate degrees. Degree-granting institutions may also offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Baylor College of Medicine may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).*
- *Branch Campus*
 - *Baylor College of Medicine School of Medicine – Temple is a branch campus of Baylor College of Medicine located in Temple, Texas, and is dependent on the continued accreditation of the parent campus located in Houston, Texas.*

SECTION 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

14.4: Representation to other agencies

Standard 14.4 *The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions.*

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), including the Temple branch campus, represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education (ED)- recognized agencies with which it holds accreditation and is consistent in the way it describes itself with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituencies. Furthermore, BCM keeps these accrediting agencies apprised of any changes of accreditation status, including imposition of public sanctions. This statement of compliance is supported by the narrative and evidence provided below, including evidence of relevant institutional procedures and website listings that document consistent representation across ED-recognized accrediting bodies. The College has not undergone any changes of accreditation status as an institution, nor have public sanctions been imposed.

Representation to U. S. Department of Education (ED)-Recognized Accrediting Agencies

As of July 2024, BCM has one main location, as represented in the ED Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs [1]: One Baylor Plaza BCM 365, Houston, TX 77030-3498. The listing clearly identifies the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as BCM's institutional accreditor. The ED database also identifies BCM as having programmatic accreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs for the Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia (DNP) program and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education for the Doctor of Medicine program (Houston and Temple campuses). BCM also has non-ED recognized program-specific accreditation for its Genetic Counseling, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Physician Assistant and Diploma in Tropical Medicine programs which are listed on the BCM Accreditation Page (please see Table 14.4-1).

STANDARD SHOWCASE:

Standard of the Month

SECTION 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

14.4: Representation to other agencies

In compliance with federal codes and the SACSCOC Policy Statement, “Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies,” BCM represents itself accurately to all ED-recognized and other accreditors “with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents”. Across all accreditors, BCM reports its institutional details consistent with those provided to SACSCOC for listing in the SACSCOC Member Directory.

Temple Branch Campus

In 2021, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved, by extensive review, a branch campus in Temple, Texas. In 2024, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees continued accreditation of the branch campus following a substantive change site visit. The School of Medicine’s Doctor of Medicine program is the only educational program at the Temple branch campus. BCM ensures that its branch campus in Temple includes the name of the institution and makes clear that its accreditation depends on the continued accreditation of the main campus.

Table 14.4-1 provides additional information, including each BCM program’s accreditor, the most recent date each BCM program was reviewed, accreditation status, and date of next review.

Table 14.4-1. Baylor College of Medicine Programmatic Accreditation

Program	Accreditation Agency	Most Recent Review	Status	Next Review
Doctor of Medicine	LCME*	Feb 1, 2022	Accredited	2029-2030
Doctor of Nursing Practice (Nurse Anesthesia)	COA*	May 1, 2024	Accredited	2034
Master of Science, Genetic Counseling	ACGC	Dec 1, 2021	Accredited	2029
Master of Science, Orthotics and Prosthetics	CAAHEP and NCOPE	Mar 1, 2025	Accredited	2030
Master of Science, Physician Assistant Studies	ARC-PA	Jul 1, 2019	Accredited	2029
Diploma in Tropical Medicine	ASTMH	May 1, 2012	Accredited	Accreditation indefinite. No future review scheduled.

* Denotes recognition on ED website

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SECTION 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

14.4: Representation to other agencies

Reporting Accreditation Status and Managing Changes

BCM has a notification procedure and guidelines to ensure that accreditors, including SACSCOC, are notified appropriately and in a timely manner of any changes in the accreditation status of BCM and its programs or changes in status with state and federal government. Working with the president & CEO and executive dean and the senior dean of the Schools of Medicine and Health Professions, individual BCM programs produce specialized accreditation reports in response to accreditor requirements, timelines and standards. To ensure that BCM represents itself accurately and consistently to ED-recognized accrediting agencies, other accrediting agencies, and other external constituencies, institutional accrediting decisions and notifications are monitored by the president & CEO and executive dean, the senior dean (who serves as BCM's SACSCOC Liaison), academic program leaders, and BCM's chief communications officer.

REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION TIMELINE:

All dates subject to change throughout the process

Target Date	Accreditation Process	Quality Enhancement Plan
October 2024	SACSCOC Executive Committee Established and First Meeting SACSCOC Reaffirmation 2026 Kick-Off Review of SACSCOC narratives begins	Launch QEP Survey Recruit QEP Director
November 2024	Reaffirmation Newsletter Review of SACSCOC narratives	Review Survey Results/Analyze Comments Examine Feasibility of Topic Recruit QEP Director
December 2024	SACSCOC Annual Meeting, Austin, TX (12/7 to 12/10) Reaffirmation Newsletter Review of SACSCOC narratives	Review Survey Results/Analyze Comments Examine Feasibility of Topic
January 2025	Reaffirmation Newsletter	Engage Content Specialist Identify External review/advisory committee Recommend Topic to Executive Leadership QEP Topic Announced to BCM Community
February 2025	Reaffirmation Newsletter	Determine QEP time frame for implementation and budget
March 2025	Reaffirmation Newsletter	
April 2025	Leadership Review of Compliance Certificate begins Reaffirmation Newsletter	
July 2025	Compliance Certificate Draft Completed	
August 2025	Final Review of Compliance Certificate	
September 2025	Compliance Certificate Due (9/8)	
November 2025	Site Visit Prep Off-Site Peer Review Conducted (11/4 to 11/7)	
December 2025	Site Visit Prep Mock Visit	
January 2026	Site Visit Prep Mock Visit	
February 2026	Site Visit Prep Optional Focused Report Due (2/10)	QEP Due (2/10)
March 2026	On-Site Peer Review Conducted (3/24 to 3/26)	Present and discuss QEP (3/24 to 3/26)
December 2026	Review by SACSCOC Committee Board (12/3 to 12/6)	

OUR MISSION, OUR PURPOSE

Mission: Our mission at Baylor College of Medicine is to provide guidance, support and resources to help faculty and staff create and implement effective changes while ensuring the highest quality of education for our students.

Purpose: Our purpose is to promote academic excellence and innovation through accreditation and education effectiveness. We strive to foster a culture of continuous improvement and to provide resources and support for faculty and staff to develop and implement effective educational programs that prepare students for success.

The Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness supports the Baylor College of Medicine education enterprise by:

- Facilitating institutional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and monitoring ongoing compliance with SACSCOC principles of accreditation
- Providing support for program level specialized accreditation
- Coordinating ongoing assessment of educational programs and the university's quality enhancement plan (QEP)
- Conducting and reporting the results of academic program reviews
- Conducting general institutional research and data analysis
- Reporting key academic performance metrics to federal, state, and professional organizations
- Conducting general institutional research and data analysis
- Providing process expertise in the approval of substantial changes to existing programs
- Managing educational affiliation agreements, observerships, and external learners

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