



ROAD TO SACSCOC REAFFIRMATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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 OAEE website to catch up on all past issues

- [December 2024](#)
- [January 2025](#)
- [February 2025](#)
- [March 2025](#)
- [April 2025](#)
- [May 2025](#)
- [June 2025](#)
- [July 2025](#)
- [August 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 12: ACADEMIC & SUPPORT SERVICES

12.6: Student Debt & Financial Literacy

Standard 12.6: The institution provides information and guidance to help student borrowers understand how to manage their debt and repay their loans.

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) provides information and guidance to help student borrowers understand how to manage debt and repay their loans. BCM utilizes a multifaceted approach to help students understand how to manage educational debt and repay loans. Programs and activities are provided to all students across the Houston and Temple campuses through the Office of Education Affairs and Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA).

Financial Management Programs and Activities

The OSFA's mission is to assist and counsel students in obtaining financial assistance for their education, as well as educate students on the importance of understanding their financial obligations, both while enrolled and after graduation. At BCM, to practice financial literacy and effective loan debt management we emphasize how crucial it is for students to understand that financial literacy empowers them to make informed decisions and build a solid foundation for their future careers.

BCM assists students in understanding their student debt and repayment of loans using multiple support options including financial literacy and debt management online modules, one on one counseling, and online resources.

BCM offers a full range of financial literacy options to all students, regardless of whether they are financial aid recipients or not. All students are required to complete a financial literacy module annually. This module includes information on types of debt, borrowing practices, investments, retirement, credit scores, and budgeting.

Should students need additional resources, the financial aid website has a Financial Wellness component that students can access at their own convenience. Students still needing resources have the option of contacting a Financial Aid Counselor for more in-depth discussions.

Students who are recipients of federal aid (currently or previously) are required to complete a one-on-one personal student loan debt management counseling. This is a two-part training course which includes an online Debt Management module. After the module is complete, the students are required to schedule a one-on-one Debt Management session with a financial aid counselor to review the information specific to their debt. The counselor prepares a detailed package of information to include their current borrowing amounts, projected repayment schedules, and grace period. This information is reviewed with the student and the counselor offers guidance on how to manage their debt and repayment plan options.

Loan Counseling & Resources

Coordinated by the Office of Student Financial Aid, staff ensure/provide the following:

- Allow borrowing only within the cost of attendance.
- Provide each student borrower with an award notification link, where the student can review a summary of the total loans borrowed at the College. The link to the National Student Loan Data System is also available for each student to review his/her federal student loan history.
- Provide comprehensive entrance and exit loan counseling.

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All students accepting federal loans are required to complete online entrance counseling [8]. Counseling details the rights and responsibilities of borrowing and how to manage their debt. This information is also repeated during the orientation sessions.

There is also mandatory online exit counseling on the Student Federal Aid site for those students beginning repayment after graduation. Information handouts are also provided regarding loan repayment options, grace periods, forbearance and deferments.

There is also a mandatory online loan exit counseling session for borrowers of BCM institutional student loans. This exit counseling session reiterates the terms of these loans as stated in the loan promissory note, and it requires the borrower to take a short quiz confirming understanding of their rights and responsibilities. The Office of Student Account Services notifies student loan borrowers of this requirement prior to graduation and verifies completion before students are cleared to graduate.

The OSFA provides both printed and online debt management information to all students. Resources include both internal and external information, including AAMC resources. Information is distributed by email and through the Office of Education Affairs' Student Commons Newsletter.

The office maintains a Financial Wellness webpage to provide students at BCM:

- Virtual and in-person appointments
- Financial counseling and other financial wellness resources through Academic Live Care (ALC)
- Information about sources of aid
- Medical Student Financial Wellness resources
- Financial Literacy and Loan Debt Management resources
- Net Price Calculator
- Money management checklist
- Resources for scholarships
- Financial Aid provides virtual financial wellness sessions. Topics include "Importance of Saving", "Banking Basics for Students", and "Managing Your Money".

Offices Responsible for Providing Information and Guidance

Office of Student Financial Aid

All financial aid staff members assist all students in all programs across both campuses. The Office of Financial Aid is staffed with six professionals: a senior manager, three financial aid counselors, and two academic services coordinators.

OSFA resides as an institutional student services office and supports the following schools/programs:

- School of Medicine:
 - M.D. Program (M.D.)
- School of Health Professions:
 - Doctor of Nurse Practice – Nurse Anesthesia Program (D.N.P)
 - Physician Assistant Program (M.S.)
 - Orthotics and Prosthetics Program (M.S.)
 - Genetic Counseling Program (M.S.)

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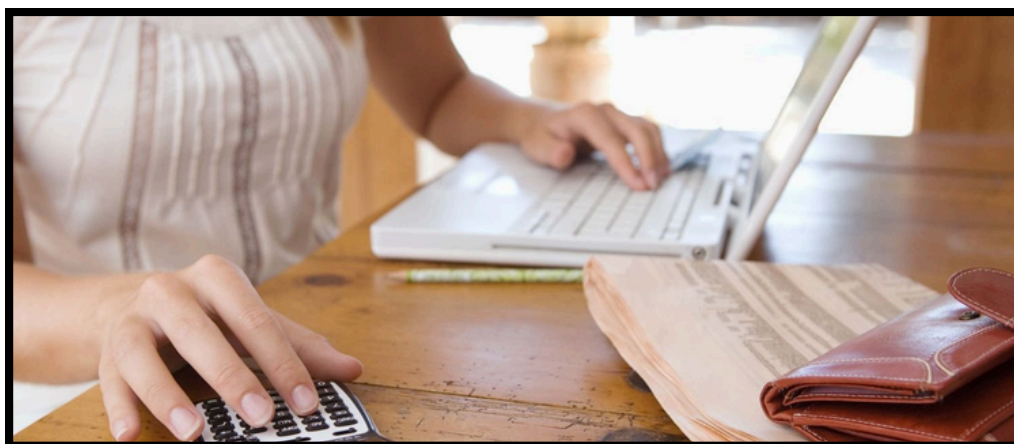
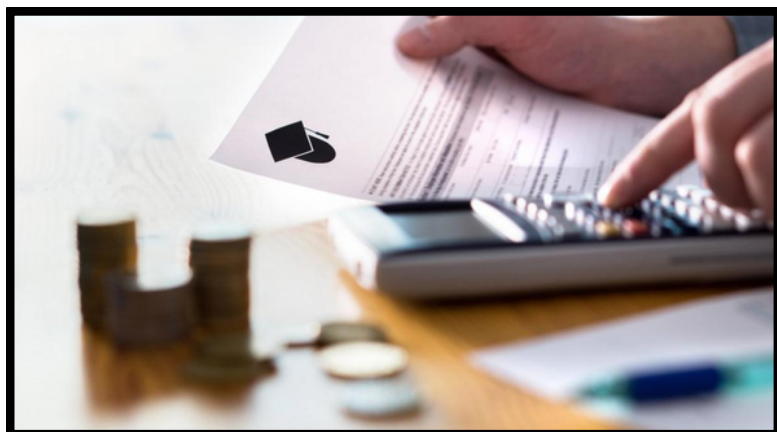
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- Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Program:
 - Cancer & Cell Biology (Ph.D)
 - Chemical, Physical & Structural Biology (Ph.D)
 - Development, Disease Models & Therapeutics (Ph.D)
 - Genetics & Genomics (Ph.D)
 - Immunology & Microbiology (Ph.D)
 - Neuroscience (Ph.D)
 - Quantitative & Computational Biosciences (Ph.D)
 - Clinical Investigation (Ph.D., M.S.)
 - Biomedical Sciences (M.S.)
- National School of Tropical Medicine
 - Diploma in Tropical Medicine

Additional Resources

In addition, BCM students have access to a student assistance program, Academic Live Care, supported by Student and House Staff Mental Health Services, which offers financial literacy and wellness services to all students at no cost.



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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