



ACCREDITATION NEWSLETTER

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Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness

The Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness (OAEE) is responsible for overseeing accreditation processes and ensuring the effectiveness of educational programs. Our primary focus is to maintain and enhance the quality of education provided at Baylor College of Medicine.

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 college 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
- Providing process expertise in the approval of substantial changes
- Managing educational affiliation agreements, observerships and external learners

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SACSCOC ROAD TO REAFFIRMATION UPDATE

In September 2025, Baylor College of Medicine proudly submitted its Compliance Certification as part of the reaffirmation process for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This milestone reflects our unwavering commitment to academic excellence, institutional integrity, and continuous improvement.

We are now in the next phase—awaiting the off-site review. This important step will help ensure that our programs and operations continue to meet the highest standards of quality and accountability. Baylor College of Medicine will be hosting our SACSCOC Mock Site Visit from January 12th to 15th, 2026.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many faculty, staff, and supporters who have contributed their time, expertise, and dedication throughout this journey. Your efforts have been instrumental in helping Baylor College of Medicine uphold its mission and values. We look forward to the next chapter in this reaffirmation process with confidence and gratitude.

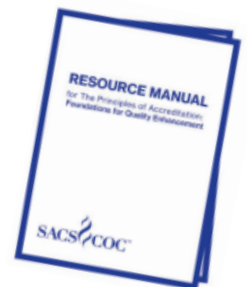


SACSCOC NEWS

In response to recent concerns regarding the relevance and perceived political messaging within current accreditation standards, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is launching a comprehensive review and revision process beginning October 2025. This initiative is expected to span 14-18 months.

The revision will focus on:

- Streamlining standards to enhance clarity and usability
- Differentiating expectations to better reflect institutional diversity
- Aligning with workforce and economic development priorities



Additionally, updates to the Principles of Accreditation will provide a foundation for improving process efficiency. A key outcome will be the development of stronger, mission-based criteria to support emerging Distinction Designations.

To ensure transparency and balance, the review will include input from state legislators and leaders in economic and workforce development as part of a broader bias assessment.

SACSCOC remains committed to maintaining rigorous, mission-driven standards that support institutional excellence and public trust.

LCME ELEMENT 7 UPDATE

The structure of new Standard 7 was approved in principle by the LCME in February 2025. It has been revised based on the inclusion of Element 7.3, which was added to address the explicit requirement for content related to “nutrition” The revision that includes new Element 7.3 was initially approved by the LCME in September 2025. The table below shows the proposed standard and element language. The LCME will now consider comments in its review of the proposed new Standard 7 at its February 2026 meeting. If finally approved, the revised standard and elements, with their associated DCI questions, would be effective in academic year 27-28.



For more information, please visit the LCME [website](#)

CURRENT Standard Language (AY 2025-26)	PROPOSED Standard Language (AY 2027-28)
Standard 7 (curricular content) The faculty of a medical school ensure that the medical curriculum provides content of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare medical students for entry into any residency program and for the subsequent contemporary practice of medicine.	Standard 7 (curricular content) The medical education curriculum provides content and experiences of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare medical students for entry into any graduate medical education program, for the subsequent practice of contemporary medicine, and for applying self-directed learning and critical thinking across the educational program competencies.

ARC-PA UPDATE

ARC-PA Commission approved the 6th Edition of the Standards for Entry Level PA Programs The ARC-PA is pleased to announce that the Commission has approved the 6th Edition of the Standards for entry-level PA programs. These Standards went to effect on September 1, 2025.

The Compliance Manual can be found [here](#). The 6th edition of the Standards includes minor changes that are expected to translate into significant improvements for programs. Some of the upgrades include:

- Full payment for principal faculty board certification and licensure
- Principal faculty may hold PA-C emeritus status
- Protected 50% effort for program director administrative responsibilities.
- Medical directors may be currently or previously certified PAs or physicians
- Preceptors may be currently or previously board-certified
- Added maintenance of personal wellness didactic instruction
- Added telehealth/telemedicine to didactic and clinical instruction
- Streamlined the self-assessment requirements <https://lnkd.in/euacycYW>

These Standards demonstrate the PA education community’s ongoing commitment to advancing the PA profession through high-quality PA programs.

DNP: LEADING THE WAY

Davis elected president of nurse anesthesia group

Dr. Rachel Davis, director of the DNP Program - Nurse Anesthesia in the School of Health Professions, was elected president of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). COA is responsible for the accreditation of institutions and programs of nurse anesthesia at the post-master's and postdoctoral certificate, master's or doctoral degree levels in the U.S. and its territories. Davis was elected to this position after serving as champion of the special interest group that recently revised the standards for nurse anesthesia educational programs.



ANNOUNCEMENT: TRANSITION TO WATERMARK PLATFORM

The Office of Accreditation and Educational Effectiveness is excited to announce its transition to the Watermark software platform to support institutional accreditation and continuous improvement efforts. Beginning this cycle, all submissions related to the SACSCOC Compliance Certification will be managed through Watermark, streamlining documentation, collaboration, and reporting processes. Additionally, ongoing program assessments will now be conducted within the platform, enabling more efficient data collection, analysis, and feedback loops across academic and administrative units. This strategic move enhances transparency, accountability, and alignment with institutional goals—empowering departments to tell their story of impact with clarity and confidence.



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.

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