



ROAD TO SACSCOC REAFFIRMATION

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



## 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."

## How Can You Help?

Faculty, staff, and students can help by responding to requests for documentation, responding to surveys, serving on committees, providing input about the Quality Enhancement Plan, acknowledging and supporting the work of the Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness (OAEE), and asking questions about anything you do not understand. Our success depends on the collective dedication of our BCM community to this important endeavor.

## 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 AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### 12.1: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**Standard 12.1** The institution provides appropriate academic and student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission.

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) provides appropriate academic and student support programs, services and activities consistent with the institutional mission. BCM's student support programs, services and activities are provided directly through the centralized Office of Education Affairs, other centralized service providers (e.g., Office of Information Technology, facilities, occupational health), and services by individual degree programs. By promoting holistic development and education of students as well-rounded professionals ready to contribute to the scientific and healthcare fields, BCM's portfolio of student support services are directly aligned with, and advances the institutional mission, to "create knowledge and apply science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally."

As an expansion of the medical education program, both campuses are fully supported by on-site faculty and staff. This portfolio of services is provided to all students through a number of offices across the institution, but primarily through the institution-wide Office of Education Affairs (OEA). An example of how a degree program provides a more focused and tailored set of services is the MD program's Office of Student Affairs. The office, through the Discovery, Integration, Success, Community, Outreach (DISCO) program, provides academic advising, workshops, and peer tutoring and other resources.

#### **Access to BCM's Student Services: All Students and Sites**

BCM students have access to student support services through a variety of methods that are designed to provide timely and effective support. Based on student feedback and institutional experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, BCM better understands how students would prefer to engage with various student support services. Therefore, a distributed model, with remote and in-person options, is provided to students. Planning is ongoing for the increased enrollment as new class cohorts matriculate and for the services and programs that will be available to students as they progress through their four-year medical school journey.

Along with standard academic and administrative support services such as financial aid, registrar functions, student accounts, and admissions, BCM provides students additional support through academic advising, tutoring, career counseling, and disability assistance. All students have access to onsite and offsite mental health counseling, plus an array of wellness services. BCM also offers opportunities for development of leadership skills beyond the classroom through student organizations, community services opportunities, and diversity programs.

Academic support and student support programs, services and activities are elaborated below. As an overview, the following table describes whether the service is provided centrally by the Office of Education Affairs and for our Temple students, whether in-person and/or remote access is available to them.

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	BCM Central Service (OEA)	In-Person Temple Support	Access to Remote Houston Support
<b>Academic Support</b>			
Career Counseling	X (primarily for students not pursuing residency)	X	X
Tutoring		X	X
Academic Coaching	X	X	X
Library		X	X
Disability Services	X	X	X
Registrar	X	X	X
Financial Aid	X	X	X
Student Account Services	X	X	X
Information Technology Infrastructure	X (Office of Information Technology)	X	X
<b>Student Support</b>			
Health Services	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Occupational Health		X	
Wellness Intervention	X	X	X
Student Wellness Program	X (Office of HR)	X	X
Student Community Engagement		X	X
Student Organizations and Government		X	X
Title IX Services	X (Office of HR)	X	X
Student Safety		X (all safety services on-site)	

# 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		Engage Content Specialist  Identify External review/advisory committee  Recommend Topic to Executive Leadership  QEP Topic Announced to BCM Community
February 2025		Determine QEP time frame for implementation and budget
March 2025		
April 2025	Leadership Review of Compliance Certificate begins	
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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