Importance of SACS Reaffirmation

• Eligibility for Federal financial aid

• Demonstrates accountability and commitment to quality enhancement

• Proves Winthrop’s mission and *The Vision of Distinction* are foundations of our operations
SACS Expectations

- Compliance with standards and requirements
- Commitment to quality (continuous assessment of all facets of the institution)
- Focus on Student Learning
- “Culture of Integrity” in all operations
- Respect for value of peer review
SACS and Other Accreditations

- Education (NCATE)
- Business (AACSB)
- Computer Science (ABET)
- Counseling (CACREP)
- Dietetics (CADE)
- Social Work (CSWE)
- Sport Management (COSMA)
- Art (NASAD)
- Mass Comm (ACEJMC)
- Music (NASM)
- Theatre (NAST)
Organization of the SACS Reaffirmation Process

- Leadership Team
- Steering Committee
- Compliance Committee with subcommittees
- Quality Enhancement Plan Committee
*Compliance Committee and all subcommittees will be supported by a technology committee and an editorial committee*
Phases of SACS Reaffirmation

• **Phase I:**
  Readiness Audit: Spring/Summer 2009

• **Phase II:**
  Compliance Certification: Fall 2009-Summer 2010

• **Phase III:**
  Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): Fall 2009-Fall 2010

• **Phase IV:**
Phase I: Readiness Audit

• Opportunity to identify areas needing attention (Gap Analysis) prior to submission of the Compliance Certification Report

• Report to Executive Officers in June 2009 on preliminary findings
Phase II: Compliance Certification

• An in depth analysis and judgment of Winthrop’s compliance (full, partial or non) with SACS standards and requirements

• An inventory of all records/documents to support evidence of compliance

• Development of electronic compliance report (website) with all supporting documentation
Phase III: The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

- Five-year, mission-driven plan focused on student learning

- Examples:
  - student writing
  - student engagement
  - information fluency
QEP Development Process

• Topic selection involves faculty/staff, students, alumni, community (must be inclusive)

• Plan specifies objectives, outcomes, institutional research, and best practices literature

• Implementation plan demonstrates institutional commitment (financial and physical resources)
Phase IV: QEP Implementation & Five-year Interim Report (New)

• 2011-2016

• SACS approves the Quality Enhancement Plan and the plan is implemented for five years.

• Five-Year Interim Report is an abbreviated Compliance Certification Report
And the cycle continues.
## Timeline for SACS Reaffirmation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2009</td>
<td>Conduct Readiness Audit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2009</td>
<td>Leadership Team Orientation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fall 2009-Spring 2010         | Complete Compliance Report  
Select and develop QEP      |
| September 2010                | Submit Compliance Report |
| November 2010                 | Off-site review of Compliance Report |
| December 2010                 | Submit QEP        |
| Spring 2011                   | SACS On-site Review Committee visits Winthrop to assess QEP and concerns raised from the Compliance Report |
| Spring/Summer 2011            | Winthrop follow-up to SACS On-site Committee Report |
| December 2011                 | SACS takes action on Winthrop’s Reaffirmation |
Streamlining the Process

Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency as Goals
SACS Readiness Audit Templates Flow Chart

1. Standard/Requirement Template is Submitted Via Winthrop SACS Website
   April 10, 2009
2. Template Arrives in Compressed XML Format ▲
3. XML Data are Imported into PDF Template ▲
4. PDF Data are Exported to Word Template ▲
5. Word Document is Formatted and Edited if Necessary
6. Formatted/Edited Word Document is Converted to Non-editable PDF
7. Readiness Audit Committee Reviews Non-editable PDF* ▲
8. Readiness Audit Committee Completes Audit Summary Form ▲
9. Non-editable PDF is Returned to Appropriate Party with Audit Summary Form

*SACS Reaffirmation Office Maintains Editable Word Document
SACS Website

www.winthrop.edu/sacs/
Department of Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services

The Department of Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services (AAAS) has responsibility for supporting the achievement of the University’s mission by providing institutional data and findings from research and assessment to:

- Support evidence-based planning, decision making, and accountability processes
- Support regional and specialized program accreditation efforts
- Provide student and faculty support services in the areas of records, registration, and academic space and scheduling

For more information on the areas within the Department of Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services, please click on the links at the left.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dept. of Accreditation, Accountability, & Academic Services
102 Tillman Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733, USA
803/323-1460
803/323-3711 (fax)

QUICK LINKS

Accreditation
Mission Statement
Vision of Distinction
NSSE Benchmarks
VSA College Portrait
Role of Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services

• Facilitate and support assessment activities

• Provide data and analysis
  - Dashboards
  - Data Warehouses
  - Assessment & Survey Inventory

• Work across the institution
Reaffirmation Critical Success Factors

• **Compliance:**
  
  Explicit Electronic Documentation
  
  - Faculty Credentialing
  
  - Use of Assessment Results for Institutional Effectiveness
  
  - Substantive Change

• **QEP:**
  
  Carefully design a course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning
While the Compliance Certification focuses on the past and the present, the QEP looks to the future, and . . .
The QEP must be embedded within the institution’s ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process.
Institutional Effectiveness

Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1

The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results ...
Fifth-Year Interim Report

Requires Continuous Monitoring & Documentation with respect to Commission:

- Policies
- Guidelines
- Good Practices
- Position Statements
Fifth-Year Interim Report
Includes

• Abbreviated Institutional Summary Form Prepared for Commission Reviews
• Abbreviated Compliance Certification
• Additional Requested Information
• Impact Report of Quality Enhancement Plan
Reaffirmation is not an event...

but a continuous cycle of . . .

- Assessing
- Analyzing
- Using Results to Improve
- Documenting
QUESTIONS ?