Vanderbilt University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Reaffirmation of accreditation occurs every 10 years. Vanderbilt’s next reaffirmation of accreditation will take place in 2016-2017.

As part of the reaffirmation of accreditation process, Vanderbilt will submit 1) a Compliance Certification Report that demonstrates compliance with requirements, standards, and federal regulations, 2) an Institutional Summary Form, and 3) a Quality Enhancement Plan that addresses a focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. Work on the Compliance Certification Report has begun and will continue until our accreditation is reaffirmed in 2017.

An Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee, which consists of faculty and staff members from other SACSCOC accredited institutions, will review Vanderbilt’s Compliance Certification Report in Fall 2016.

An On-Site Reaffirmation Committee, which also consists of faculty and staff members from other SACSCOC accredited institutions, will visit Vanderbilt’s campus from March 21-23, 2017. The On-Site Committee evaluates and determines the acceptability of the Quality Enhancement Plan, reviews areas of non-compliance noted by the Off-Site Committee, reviews standards and requirements related to the criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education, and investigates any additional areas of interest.

**Important Dates**

- September 12, 2016 – Compliance Certification Report Due
- November 8-11, 2016 – Off-Site Committee Review in Atlanta, GA
- February 6, 2017 – Vanderbilt Responds to the Off-Site Report and Provides a Quality Enhancement Plan
- March 21-23, 2017 – On-Site Committee Visit
- Fall 2017 – Vanderbilt Responds to the On-Site Committee Report
- December 2017 – SACSCOC Reaffirmation Decision

**Questions?**

Dawn Turton, Assistant Provost for Faculty and Institutional Accreditation

Lauren Rodgers, Program Manager

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**Website**

[www.vanderbilt.edu/provost/sacscoc](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/provost/sacscoc)

**Please Save the Date**

**SACSCOC On-Site Committee Visit**

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – Thursday, March 23, 2017

**Importance of Regional Accreditation**

Accreditation by SACSCOC signifies that a university has

- A mission appropriate to higher education,
- The resources, programs, and services to accomplish and sustain that mission,
- Clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and that are appropriate to the degrees it offers, and
- Success in achieving its stated objectives.

Maintaining fully accredited status ensures that the university remains in compliance with federal expectations and continues to receive federal Title IV financial aid funding.