



Virginia Tech
Invent the Future



Reaffirmation of Accreditation (<http://www.sacs.vt.edu>)

A Message from the President: Dr. Charles Steger



I am happy to inform the Virginia Tech community that our institution recently submitted its Compliance Certification as part of the reaffirmation process for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). The university was required to address 86 core, comprehensive and federal regulation statements with written narrative justifications and supporting documentation. The process consists of two major parts: (1) fulfillment of a compliance certificate and, (2) submission of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The compliance certificate was delivered to the SACS office and external review team on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, comprising over 800 pages of text and 1800 supporting documents. The QEP will be formally presented to the SACS office and external review team in early Spring, 2010. I thank all of those at Virginia Tech who offered their time, energy, and expertise in preparing the compliance certificate.

A Message from VP for Undergraduate Education: Dr. Daniel Wubah

As the official SACS Liaison for Virginia Tech, I would like to thank all administrators, faculty, staff, and students who have contributed time, energy, and materials toward our reaffirmation of accreditation effort! I also want to emphasize that the process of self-study that is integral to any accreditation effort is an ongoing, never ending enterprise. As a vibrant, forward-looking community, Virginia Tech is dedicated to continuous appraisal and improvement. In this spirit, we now turn our attention to the formalization of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), as well as receiving feedback from the SACS off-site review team regarding our institution's compliance certification. As always, we look forward to receiving your ideas for new and better ways to empower lifelong learning, in the Hokie community and beyond.



VT-SACS Office

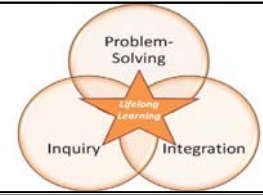
Dr. Robin Panneton
VT-SACS Coordinator
102 Sandy Hall (0189)
231-8030/231-9770
vt.sacs@vt.edu
panneton@vt.edu

What's next?

- The VT-SACS Office is busy preparing for the on-site review team from SACS-COC which will be on campus from Tuesday, March 16th through Thursday, March 18th, 2010.
- The VT-SACS Office is also shifting its focus now to the development of the QEP (*look on the back for more information!!!*)



Be on the lookout...
The Virginia Tech **QEP** is coming!



What is the QEP?

Under the initial direction of Dr. Robert Jones (Biological Sciences), the **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)** has begun to take form! The QEP is the component of the accreditation process that reflects and affirms that student learning is at the heart of the institution's mission. It must describe a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning and it must be embedded within the institution's ongoing planning and evaluation process.

The QEP looks to the future. With Dr. Mary Ann Lewis stepping in as the new Director of First Year Experiences, she will oversee the continued development of the QEP. The QEP provides an opportunity for Virginia Tech to focus on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning, a way to move the institution forward. It requires institutional commitment, a robust assessment plan, and high potential for sustainability.

Where are we in QEP development?

Although the QEP is under active construction, it is being guided by well-defined goals:

To engage students through first-year experiences that

provide curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities designed to foster their abilities: (1) to problem solve, (2) to explore and use information appropriately and effectively, and to (3) integrate ideas and experiences and apply them to new learning situations within and beyond campus.

Problem Solving Learning Indicators

Students will be able to:

- Define a problem.
- Identify problem-solving strategies.
- Propose solutions/hypotheses.

Inquiry Learning Indicators

Students will be able to:

- Select a topic of inquiry.
- Access and evaluate existing knowledge, research, and/or views.
- Use information effectively, ethically, and legally to accomplish a specific purpose.

Integration Learning Indicators

Students will be able to:

- Connect relevant experience and academic knowledge.
- Make connections across disciplines.
- Reflect upon and assess themselves as learners.

What's next for the QEP?

The VT Office of First Year Experiences is furthering the development of the QEP, including the completion of the document to be submitted to SACS. Upon approval from SACS, Dr. Lewis will lead the campus wide implementation of the QEP.

Upcoming QEP Activities and Events

October, 2009: Faculty Innovation Teams formed and begin work.

October, 2009: Call for Proposals published

October 28, 2009: Afternoon Chat

November 19, 2009: FDI Workshop

Office of First Year Experiences

Dr. Mary Ann Lewis
Director
103 Hillcrest Hall (0914)
231-3341
sacs-qep@vt.edu