



VirginiaTech

Affirmation of Reaccreditation Quarterly



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Updates:

- VT SACS Office moves to Hillcrest
- Focused Reports and QEP are submitted
- VT campus prepares for the SACS-COC onsite visit

VT- SACS Accreditation Office



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VT-SACS Office Moves!

The **VT-SACS Accreditation Office** is happy to announce that we have moved “up the hill” to 105/107 Hillcrest Hall. We are now in close proximity to the offices of CIDER, First Year Experiences, Academic Assessment, and Undergraduate Honors. Come visit us!



Focused Reports are Completed

Virginia Tech’s **Focused Reports** were submitted to our SACS-COC Onsite Review Committee on February 10, 2010. We are preparing for the committee’s on-site visit March 16-18, 2010. Dr. Robin Panneton will be presenting information about the reaccreditation process across campus to help the University community prepare for the on-site review. We appreciate your time and interest in familiarizing yourself with several key sources of information having to do with reaccreditation, and have placed the following on our website (<http://www.sacs.vt.edu/>):

- Compliance Certification
- Off-site Review of Compliance
- Focused Reports
- On-site Review Team roster (with biographies)
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

(you will need to have a VT PID and password and Firefox 2.0 (or higher) to access these documents)

SACS On-site Review Visit to occur March 16 – 18, 2010

Every 10 years, Virginia Tech undergoes a formal review for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). The university is in the midst of its next reaccreditation cycle. Reaccreditation will be confirmed in December 2010. The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that institutions of higher education are committed in all aspects of their operations to the promotion of student learning. During our on-site review, the members of the SACS-COC committee will engage with individuals from all levels of the institution - administrators, faculty, staff, students - as part of the ongoing evaluation for reaccreditation. For more information, visit <http://www.sacs.vt.edu>

Purpose of Visit

- Evaluate extent that our programs and services reflect VT’s mission
- Evaluate effectiveness of programs, services, operations
- Evaluate VT’s process of ongoing, continuous improvement
- Evaluate VT’s QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)

How can you contribute?

- Visit www.sacs.vt.edu and become knowledgeable about the process
- Be informed in order to clearly communicate with on-site committee members
- Learn about the VT QEP - *Pathways to Success* - by visiting www.fye.vt.edu



Pathways to Success

VT - Office of First Year Experiences

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We would like to acknowledge the help of the following individuals in preparing the focused reports – their hard work and dedication were essential in getting this task accomplished!

- **Dr. Kris Bush** – Institutional Research
- **Drs. Ray van Dyke, Steve Culver, David Kniola** – Academic Assessment
- **Mr. Tom Brown and Dr. Sharrika Davis** – Dean of Students
- **Dr. Elaine Humphrey** – Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence
- **Drs. Pat Hyer and Bethany Flora** – Provost's Office
- **Ms. Melinda West** – Office of Finance
- **Drs. Rosemary Blieszner and Ms. Monika Gibson** – Graduate School
- **Ms. Kim O'Rourke** – Office of the President

QEP- *Pathways to Success*

As part of the SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation process, the university is required to create a **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**. 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.

The QEP provides an opportunity for Virginia Tech to focus on an issue or issues that are 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.

Virginia Tech's QEP - *Pathways to Success* - focuses on first year experiences. The intent is to engage students through first-year experiences that provide curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities designed to foster their abilities to

- problem solve
- explore and use information appropriately and effectively
- integrate ideas and experiences and apply them to new learning situations within and beyond campus



The QEP was sent with the focused reports to our SACS-COC onsite review team on February 10, 2010. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to **Ms. Carole Nickerson** (QEP Master Editor) for helping to bring the QEP into final form!

Request for Proposals for 2010-2011 Grants

- Proposals can be sent to the Office of First Year Experiences, 103 Hillcrest Hall, 0193 malewis@vt.edu
- Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 29, 2010. Please address questions to Mary Ann Lewis, Director of First Year Experiences
- Request for proposals can be found at www.fye.vt.edu
- Awards will be announced in early May 2010