

Preparing for the On-Site Visit of the

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges

Miami Dade College | September 23-26, 2024
September 30-October 3, 2024

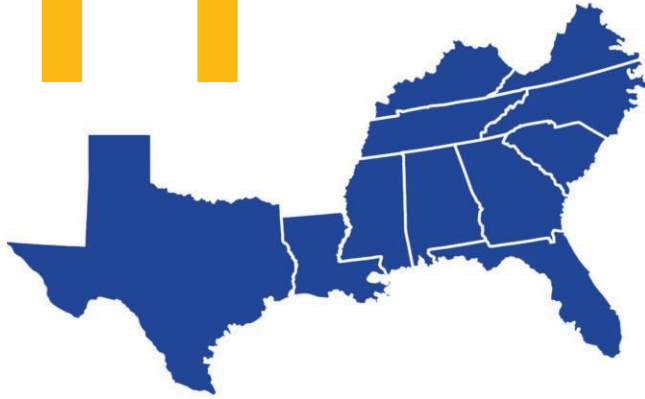
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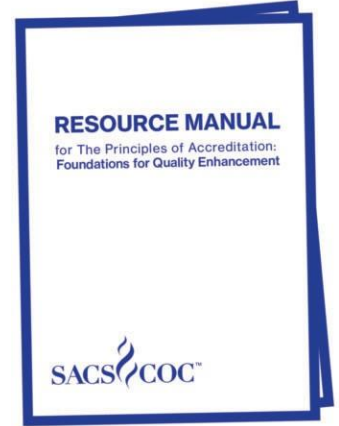
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States in the southeast are in the SACSCOC region – as well as schools in Mexico, Costa Rica, and the UAE.



38

Standards of the 73 in the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation were addressed.



12

Average number of standards requiring follow-up by colleges and universities in a Focused Report after off-site review.

8

Standards that require a follow-up response in Miami Dade College's Focused Report.

10

Years between accreditation cycles. SACSCOC also requires a Fifth-Year Interim Report on select standards.



10



Number of Team members on the Reaffirmation Site Visit Committee. Nine committee members and one SACSCOC Vice President.

Save the Date

September 23-26, 2024

- Reviewers visit five campuses and one off-site instructional location in advance of site visit.

September 30, 2024

- Team of Reviewers arrive in Miami for compliance site visit.

October 1, 2024

- Reviewers visit three remaining campuses
- Reviewers begin with faculty, staff, and administrators – as requested in advance – to resolve lingering issues from review of the Compliance Certification Report (CCR) and Focused Report. Twenty-one of the 38 standards addressed in the CCR must be reviewed on site, regardless of the off-site judgment of compliance.
- Presentation to introduce the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to Reviewers.

October 2, 2024

- Interviews as requested with students, staff, and administrators to discuss campus buy-in and feasibility of the QEP.
- Reviewers make deliberations and decide on any final recommendations.

October 3, 2024

- Exit conference with President Pumariega, Provost Harrison, the Reaffirmation Leadership Team, and other members of College leadership to share findings from the on-site review.

June 12, 2025

- Final decision regarding Miami Dade College's reaffirmation of accreditation is made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees at their June Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Talking Points

ACCREDITATION

Miami Dade College (MDC) is part of the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Class of 2025 for reaffirmation of our accreditation status.

It is hard to overemphasize the importance of accreditation to institutions. Institutional accreditation is the way the federal government ensures compliance with federal laws and mandates for higher education. Additionally, accreditation determines the institution's eligibility to receive federal and state funds, and our students' ability to transfer credits to other schools.

The MDC SACSCOC liaison is Dr. Malou Harrison, Executive Vice President and Provost.

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION REPORT

As part of the reaffirmation review, MDC submitted a Compliance Certification Report, an extensive self-study of all aspects of College operations, in March 2024. The effort was led by the SACSCOC Leadership Team and sub-committees of subject-matter experts assigned by the vice provosts responsible for each of the 38 standards reviewed. Everyone at the College helped in some way, by participating in assessment, preparing needed reports and documentation, and helping to ensure our ongoing compliance with all of the standards in the SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation*.

A team of our peers from other undergraduate colleges in the SACSCOC region came together in Atlanta on April 23-26, 2024, to read and analyze our documentation. These Off-Site Reviewers were faculty and administrators from SACSCOC peer institutions located outside of Florida.

FOCUSED REPORT

Off-site reviewers requested follow-up information in 8 areas. These areas are: Control of Fundraising Activities, Faculty Qualifications, Program Faculty, Student Achievement, Public Information, Admissions Policies and Practices, Distance and Correspondence Education, and Federal and State Responsibilities.

In August 2024, MDC will submit a follow-up Focused Report on these areas, with the intent to resolve any outstanding issues.

ON-SITE VISIT

On September 23-26 and September 30-October 3, 2024, MDC will host a team of external reviewers who are also peers, working at colleges in the SACSCOC region. This On-Site Committee will seek to resolve any compliance issues that remain following their review of the Focused Report, as well as review the 20 standards required by the US Department of Education. The committee will also focus their attention on the QEP for MDC.

The On-Site Committee will tour all eight campuses and one off-campus instructional site during the week of September 23-26. They will not be holding compliance interviews during this time. The following week, September 30-October 3, the committee will be based at Wolfson campus to review standards and the QEP.

During the visit, the On-Site Committee may request to meet with individuals or groups of people (students, faculty, or staff) to understand specific issues related to compliance with standards or to the QEP. While we anticipate receiving advance notice of requested interviews, please mark site visit dates on your calendar and be flexible and readily available should the committee ask to meet with you during this time. Interviews will occur during work hours on October 1-2. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to meet with committee members during that time.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

As part of the reaffirmation of accreditation process, every SACSCOC institution is required to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that "is derived from an institution's ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation process" and "reflects and affirms a commitment to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue the institution considers important to improving student learning outcomes and/or student success." The QEP Topic for MDC is Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness Skill for the Workforce. The full report of the QEP will be available on the website <https://www.mdc.edu/accreditation/qep>.

Members of the On-Site Committee may approach anyone – faculty they meet in the elevator, students having lunch, staff with whom they visit during meetings and meals – and ask them if they know what our QEP topic is. Be prepared!

Tips for the On-Site Visit

TIPS for Working with the On-Site Committee September 23-26 and September 30-October 3, 2024

- Operate with integrity in all matters related to SACSCOC. As noted in Section 1, Core Requirement 1.1 of the *Principles of Accreditation*, the principle of integrity is fundamental to the College's relationship with SACSCOC. While we don't provide a written response to this standard, we are evaluated on it through our overall interactions with SACSCOC and our peer evaluators.
- Keep your schedule as flexible as possible in case you are called to be interviewed by the SACSCOC On-Site Committee related to your area of responsibility. If so, please bring copies of whatever documents are requested and be prepared to provide complete, yet focused, answers to their questions.
- If questioned or interviewed by a site visitor, answer honestly. If you do not know the answer, just say so and let them know that an answer will be provided following the interview. Focus on the positive attributes of the College and any strategies that are in place for areas needing improvement.
- The members of the On-Site Committee are working administrators and faculty members from other undergraduate colleges in our region. They understand the complexity of the SACSCOC standards, and they want us to move through the reaffirmation process as smoothly as possible. **They want to see us through a successful visit and reaffirmation of our accreditation status.**
- The reviewers have prepared thoroughly for their visit. They have read our Compliance Certification Report, Focused Report, and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). They will have reviewed evidentiary documents provided to support our response to the standards, like College policies and procedures, AERs, and financial audit reports. They likely will have perused our Catalog and will have spent time on the College website. They have invested a great deal of time and energy in preparing for the review.
- The areas they are most likely to investigate include:
 - QEP – including meeting with various constituents to see how the QEP is going to impact students and move the College forward.
 - Standards required to be reviewed on site – including possible meetings with those responsible for assessment of student learning, student complaints, curriculum development, faculty planning and coordination, distance learning, physical resources, and student services.
 - Any lingering compliance issues not fully addressed through the Focused Report.

TIPS for Preparing for the On-Site Visit

- Keep your area of the College clean, neat, and organized; we want to project an environment that is conducive to student learning.
- Gain a basic understanding of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): AI Readiness Skills for the Workforce.
- If you teach courses, educate students about the impending reaffirmation site visit and the QEP topic.
- Familiarize yourself with our Mission statement:

As democracy's college, Miami Dade College changes lives through accessible, high-quality teaching and learning experiences. The College embraces its responsibility to serve as an economic, cultural and civic leader for the advancement of our diverse global community.

- Go the SACSCOC website for more information: <http://www.sacscoc.org>.
- Review the [Accreditation pages](#) on the MDC website.
- Review the [AI Readiness Skills for the Workforce](#) executive summary on the Accreditation website.
- Review SACSCOC principles that are pertinent to your area of responsibility. Examples are:
 - Student Support Services personnel – Sections 10 and 12
 - Physical Plant and Finance personnel – Section 13
 - Faculty – Sections 6, 8, and 9
- Participate in interviews prep meetings – interview prep will take place throughout the 2024 summer terms and early fall; more information will be provided.

Contact Information

For questions related to SACSCOC accreditation, the SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation*, the Compliance Certification Report and Focused Report, or On-Site Visit:

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For questions related to the Quality Enhancement Plan:

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Thank You! MDC's successful reaffirmation is due to your efforts every day.