

SACSCOC Reaffirmation

LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

What is Reaffirmation of Accreditation?

To be eligible for federal financial aid funding, higher education institutions must be accredited by a national accrediting agency. Ours is SACSCOC. Every ten years, they check on policies, processes, and operations that go across every unit of the institution.

In addition to being a requirement, we use this process to look for areas where we can do even better.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

This process covers areas which include Student Achievement, Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, Administration and Organization, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Educational Program Structure and Content, and Academic and Student Support Services.

Our Fifth-Year Interim Report and Quality Enhancement Plan Impact Report were both submitted at the beginning of March 2020. The first of those covered about a third of the total number of standards that we must demonstrate.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

What does this reaffirmation timeline look like?

Two parts: Compliance Certification and QEP Development

Compliance Certification. 2021-2022: Data Collection and First Draft; 2022-2023: Data Refinement and Revised Drafts. Submission: September 2023.

QEP timeline – two parts, next section.

Onsite visit – Spring 2024.

Why different? Compliance – past and present. QEP – present into future.

Reaffirmation Leadership Team

W. Taylor Reveley IV, President

Larissa Smith, Provost and VPAA, Professor of History

Louise Waller, Vice President for Administration and Finance

David Shoenthal, Associate Provost & Associate VPAA, Professor of Math

JoEllen Pederson, Associate Professor of Sociology, Chair of Faculty Senate

Pam Tracy, Director for the Center for Faculty Enrichment, Professor of Communication Studies

Compliance Writing Team

David Shoenthal

Russ Carmichael, Director of Planning and Real Estate Services

Jen Fraley, Dean of Students

Emily Heady, Assistant Vice President for Admissions and Retention

John Miller, Associate Professor of English

Melissa Rhoten, Professor of Chemistry

Brent Roberts, Dean of the Greenwood Library

Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Linda Townsend, Director of Assessment

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Recommendation Committee

Chair	Pam Tracy
Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences	Chris Labosier, Associate Professor of Environmental Science
College of Business and Economics	Hua (Meg) Meng, Assistant Professor of Marketing
College of Education and Human Services	Alison King, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Greenwood Library	Mark Hamilton, Research & Digital Services Librarian
Strategic Operations	Waleed Ahmed, Assistant Director of Admissions and Retention
Student Affairs	Jonathan Page, Director of Multicultural Affairs and Title VI Coordinator
Undergraduate Student	Jalen Lee, Criminal Justice Major and Cyber Security/ Information systems Minor

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Selection

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Overview

- What is the QEP?
- Things to think about: QEP topic selection considerations
- Topic recommendation committee responsibilities
- QEP topic recommendation process and timeline

Quality Enhancement Plan

Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Standard 7.2

The institution has a Quality Enhancement Plan that (a) has a **topic identified** through its **ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes**; (b) has **broad-based support** of institutional constituencies; (c) focuses on **improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success**; (d) **commits resources** to initiate, implement, and complete the QEP; and (e) includes a **plan to assess** achievement.

Five-year plan to enhance student learning and/or success by focusing on a specific topic

Considerations in Topic Selection

- Focused on undergraduate student learning and/or success
- Broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies including faculty, staff, and students
- Reflective of institutional needs and aligned with strategic priorities
- Potential impact = both (depth) and reach (breadth)
- Feasibility (resources, expertise, assessable)

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Recommendation Committee is broadly representative of the Longwood University community. This committee includes representatives from the three academic colleges, the student body, and staff.

The committee's responsibilities are to:

- inform members of Longwood community about the SACSCOC QEP requirements and Longwood's QEP topic recommendation process and timeline,
- identify possible QEP topics in the context of relevant university data and strategic priorities,
- facilitate discussions with campus constituencies and gather campus input about identified possible topics,
- evaluate the possible topics based on research, gathered feedback, and feasibility to fund and assess topics, and
- make QEP topic recommendations to Longwood's Reaffirmation Leadership Team, who will select the official topic.

Timeline: Topic Recommendation

August 2021

- Announce QEP Process to faculty, staff and students.

September – October 2021

- Committee convenes for first meeting.
- Solicits topic ideas.
- Begins initial research and data collection to identify a “long list” of possible topics.

October – November 2021

- Conducts focus group discussions and surveys with institutional constituencies (faculty, staff, administration, & students) and relevant University Planning Council (UPC) subcommittees to present initial list.
- Uses input to refine list.

December 2021 – Early January 2022

- Reviews research and gathered feedback to develop a “short list” of possible topics.

Timeline: Topic Recommendation

Mid-January – mid-February

- Provides campus-wide updates.
- Gathers additional feedback, makes final adjustments, and evaluates support for list of possible topics.

Late February 2022

- Committee chair presents recommended topic list to the Reaffirmation Leadership Team.

Mid-March 2022

- Reaffirmation Leadership Team selects the QEP topic.
- QEP Topic Recommendation Committee service ends.

March 24, 2022

- Committee Chair presents the QEP topic to faculty at the Closing Faculty meeting and discusses the QEP development and writing process.

April 2022

- Committee Chair presents the QEP topic to the UPC and discusses the QEP development and writing process.

Next Steps

Summer 2022-May 2023

- QEP Development and Writing

Fall 2023

- Submission of QEP to SACSCOC

Spring 2024

- QEP Presentation at SACSCOC On-Site Visit

Summer 2024 – Summer 2029

- Refinement and Implementation

So what can you do to help identify a topic?

- Consider possible topics and submit topic ideas
- Attend focus group discussions and complete surveys to offer ideas and feedback

“I appreciate the information, but right now I need to focus on prepping classes”

Fair enough. When you are ready...

- Short videos
- Web updates