Dear UAC,

I wanted to update you all on a couple of fronts related to continuous improvement and SACSCOC. First, thanks for your help in keeping folks on track with annual assessment reporting! As of now, across degree programs and support units, we’ve received about 93% of expected 2022-23 reports. Extensions have been granted to a small number of entities, but those extensions are necessarily brief given our SACSCOC prep timeline and the fact that more reports will be coming in (as scheduled) from Engineering, SSW, CHES, and Education. We’re providing feedback as efficiently as we can. Starting soon, an external consultant will begin reviewing UA’s narrative drafts—including evidence such as assessment reports. Our “ABC” (compliance) rates look pretty good (70 to 80%), but the closer we get to 100% the better we’ll do in the reaffirmation process. The real key is element “C” (evidence of seeking improvement in student learning/success based on interpretation of assessment findings).

Second, you may recall that we administered a Qualtrics survey to gather examples of student success initiatives being implemented in colleges and departments. We received about 40 responses in September; they’re summarized in a PDF attached here and uploaded to the UAC Box folder called “College-Department Student Success Initiatives (Fall 2023 survey).” This information is very useful for certain SACSCOC narratives, but we also hope you’ll peruse the document with an eye toward initiatives that might be good models for your own colleges and departments. I did leave the Qualtrics survey open, so if you didn’t have a chance to respond before now you can still do so. The original request and link are below.

In preparation for UA’s upcoming reaffirmation with SACSCOC, we are gathering examples of student success initiatives being implemented by colleges and academic departments. Please use the survey link below to share details about any college-level initiatives of which you’re aware. The survey will also be shared with chairs to gather information at the department/program level.

https://universityofalabama.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HzzB7vUUmTSooQ98

Loosely defined, student success could involve academic progress and persistence, student engagement, sense of belonging, etc. Initiatives could be broad in scope (e.g., applicable to all students in a college) or narrow (e.g., geared toward underrepresented students in a particular program/field).

Best wishes,
Chris
2025
Reaffirmation of Accreditation
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA