

Section 1 Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation			
1.1	<b>Institutional Commitment and Responsibilities in the Accreditation Process</b>		
1.1.1	<p><i>The effectiveness of self-regulatory accreditation depends upon an institution's acceptance of certain responsibilities, including involvement in and commitment to the accreditation process. An institution is <b>required</b> to conduct a self-study at the interval specified by the Commission and, at the conclusion of the self-study, accept an honest and forthright peer assessment of institutional strengths and weaknesses. The Commission <b>requires</b> that the self-study assess every aspect of the institution; involve personnel from all segments of the institution, including faculty, staff, students, administration and governing boards; and provide a comprehensive analysis of the institution, identifying strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the Commission <b>requires</b> an adequate institutional follow-up plan to address issues identified in the self-study.</i></p>	<p>The University of Florida archives indicate the university has maintained continuous accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges since 1913. The university is committed to pursuing the highest standards of achievement in instruction, student performance, research, scholarly accomplishment, and public service. The university accepts the requirement to conduct a self-study on all aspects of the institution involving personnel from all segments of the institution, and to accept an honest and forthright peer assessment of institutional strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>In November of 2000, the University of Florida (UF) received notice of approval by SACS to conduct an alternative self-study. The strategic focus identified by UF is internationalization. In the past few years, there have been significant events that have dramatically demonstrated our world is changing, not the least of which is rapid changes in communications technology. The need to increase the international academic perspective has never been more significant than it is today.</p> <p>The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) published a strategic vision statement in May of 2000, <u>Expanding the International Scope of Universities</u> which stated "...<i>the one assumption underlying all teaching, research and service in the new paradigm of engagement is that global competence, confidence, and comfort are preconditions for both survival and success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</i>" NASULGC identified seven goals, the first of which speaks to the University of Florida's interest in internationalization as a part of the SACS accreditation process. Goal one states, "<i>make internationalization an integral part of the university's mission and strategic plan.</i>" From that goal comes an objective to "incorporate internationalization criteria into the internal assessments and external accreditation and evaluation of the university and respective disciplines."</p> <p>The vision statement from NASULGC gave support to the Association of American Colleges and Universities comment on internationalization in academia (Fall 2000). The editor of Peer Review stated, "<i>The question isn't whether academe will become more international – the question is how it will do so.</i>" We are creating our future in the international arena. As a university whose central mission is the academic preparation of leaders for the future, we have an obligation to provide the very best educational experience for our</p>	<p>Global UF  <a href="http://www.global.ufl.edu/committees.html">http://www.global.ufl.edu/committees.html</a></p> <p>Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs  <a href="http://www.aa.ufl.edu">http://www.aa.ufl.edu</a></p> <p>Graduate Catalog  <a href="http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/gradcat">http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/gradcat</a></p>

		<p>students. In today's world that includes an international perspective.</p> <p>As a state institution, we also recognize the value to Florida in preparing more internationally astute graduates. Florida is one of the major immigrant-receiving states in the USA and is heavily engaged in the international economy. Exposure to an international perspective via the academic curriculum is essential. In the USA today, it is estimated that one in five jobs depend on the international economy. To ensure our students continue to be competitive we must create ways that guarantee our graduates have a global perspective. According to SACS, "<i>An effective institution of higher education...prepares its students to function in an increasingly diverse, complex and global society...</i>" (SACS 1998 Criteria for Accreditation, p.21).</p> <p>The Director of Accreditation and New Degree Programs, Dr. Jill W. Varnes, in the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President was identified to lead the re-affirmation process. Dr. Varnes chairs the Steering Committee that provides direction to the committees conducting the Compliance Audit and the Self-Study. Dean Jimmy Cheek, College of Agriculture, and Associate Dean Andy McCollough, College of Business, were named to Co-Chair the Compliance Committee. Dean Dennis Jett, International Center was named to Chair the International Focus Committee, with Ms. Lynn Frazier, Executive Director of the International Center as vice-Chair. Over sixty faculty, administrators and students make up the many committees and sub-committees involved in creating the self-study and compliance documents. Additionally, members of the Faculty Senate and administrative staff not directly involved in producing the documents have served as reviewers and contributed to the process. A complete list of committees and their membership is available on the web.</p> <p>The university agrees to submit an adequate follow-up plan to address any issues identified as a result of the review of Compliance with the SACS Criteria for Accreditation or the strategic self-study related to the university's goal to increase the international perspective and activities of students and faculty.</p>	
1.1.2	<p><i>An institution <b>must</b> be committed to participation in the activities and decisions of the Commission. This commitment includes a willingness to participate in the decision-making processes of the Commission and adherence to all policies and procedures, including those for reporting changes within the institution. Only if institutions accept seriously the responsibilities of membership will</i></p>	<p>The university is committed to participating in the activities and decisions of the Commission on Colleges. The Commission, SACS staff, and visiting committee members will be provided access to all parts of the university's operation. Complete and accurate information about university affairs, including reports of other accrediting, licensing and auditing agencies, will be available for review. The Office of Institutional Research maintains an up-to-date listing of all secondary accreditations; this list is posted on the world wide web. Representatives of the University of Florida regularly attend the SACS annual</p>	<p>Institutional Research  <a href="http://www.ir.ufl.edu/accred.htm">http://www.ir.ufl.edu/accred.htm</a></p>

	<i>the validity and vitality of the accreditation process be ensured.</i>	meetings and actively participate in the meeting programs. A number of UF faculty have participated as team members for SACS accreditation visits to other institutions.	
1.1.3	<i>An institution of higher education <b>is committed</b> to the search for knowledge and its dissemination. Integrity in the pursuit of knowledge <b>is expected</b> to govern the total environment of an institution. Each member institution <b>is responsible</b> for ensuring integrity in all operations dealing with its constituencies, in its relations with other member institutions, and in its accreditation activities with the Commission on Colleges. Each institution <b>must</b> provide the Commission access to all parts of its operation and to complete and accurate information about the institution's affairs, including reports of other accrediting, licensing and auditing agencies. In the spirit of collegiality, institutions <b>are expected</b> to cooperate fully during all aspects of the process of evaluation: preparations for site visits, the site visit itself, and the follow up to the site visit. Institutions <b>are also expected</b> to provide the Commission or its representatives with information requested and to maintain an atmosphere of openness and cooperation during evaluations, enabling evaluators to perform their duties with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.</i>	The University of Florida will provide any information requested and full access to those materials necessary to facilitate the work of the Commission in determining the University of Florida's commitment to excellence in teaching, research and service. We strive to the highest levels of integrity in all aspects of our operations--academic, business, and athletic. In the academic area, all programs for which a secondary accreditation is available are fully accredited. Our University Athletic Association went through first cycle certification in 1997 and has recently completed the 5-year interim review.	2001-2002 SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report, Internationalizing the University of Florida, Vol. 1, this report  NCAA Self-Study and Interim Report, in documents room  Annual Goals Assessment Reports for SACS by College, in documents room  Secondary Accreditation list <a href="http://www.ir.ufl.edu/accred.htm">http://www.ir.ufl.edu/accred.htm</a>
1.1.4	<i>Each participating institution <b>must</b> be in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV the 1992 Higher Education Amendments. Failure to comply with Title IV responsibilities will be considered when an institution is reviewed for initial membership or continued accreditation. In reviewing an institution's compliance with these program responsibilities, the commission will rely on documentation forwarded to it by the Secretary of Education.</i>	See 5.4.3.5, this volume.	
1.1.5	<i>Each institution seeking candidacy, membership</i>	See 1.4, this volume.	

	<i>or reaffirmation with the Commission on Colleges must document its compliance with the Conditions of Eligibility as outlined in Section 1.4.</i>		
1.2	<b>Application of the Criteria</b>		
1.2.1	<i>The Criteria for Accreditation applies to all institutional programs and services wherever located or however delivered. An institution must refrain from making a substantive change, defined as a significant modification in the nature or scope of an institution or its programs, except in accordance with the Commission's "General Substantive Change Policy for Accredited Institutions" and its attendant procedures. All existing or planned activities must be reported according to the policies, procedures and guidelines of the Commission on Colleges and must be in compliance with the Criteria.</i>	<p>The University of Florida strives to comply with the Commission policies, procedures, and guidelines as they relate to substantive change. Over the course of the two years of this self-study process, the university has undergone significant change as it relates to institutional governance. In July 2001, the State University System (SUS) of Florida's governance structure was changed by legislative action. The Florida Board of Regents (BOR) was disbanded, and appointed Boards of Trustees were established for each of the SUS institutions. The Commission was notified of the SUS change by the Governor's Office. In July of 2001, President Charles Young notified the Commission specifically of the change in the University of Florida's governance structure. Subsequently, SACS notified the University of Florida of the need to file a substantive change proposal. Provost David Colburn submitted the proposal on December 27, 2001. A copy of the proposal is available in the Documents Room. On January 31, 2002 the university was notified that SACS had approved the Substantive Change prospectus.</p> <p>In the Spring of 1998, the University of Florida requested approval of a substantive change proposal to offer a new distance education program in Audiology. This request was granted.</p>	<p>Substantive Change Proposal, in documents room</p> <p>Aud-D. Proposal, in documents room</p> <p>Aud-D. Evaluation, in documents room</p>
1.2.2	<i>The Commission on Colleges maintains a policy and procedure for considering formal complaints regarding member or candidate institutions. Each institution must have adequate procedures for addressing written student complaints.</i>	<p>The Office of the University Ombudsman was established by the state legislature and reports directly to the Provost and through the Provost to the President. The Ombudsman handles all academic related grievances for all levels of students, with designated offices established for undergraduates and for graduates and professional students. The Associate Dean of the Graduate School serves as the Ombudsman for graduate and professional school students.</p> <p>In addition, the University has established procedures for students who wish to file student program and student activity related grievances, disability related grievances, and complaints alleging sexual or racial harassment or sexual assault. The Office of Student Affairs serves as the point of contact for non-academic grievances. All procedures are published in a number of university publications that are available in hard copy as well as on the web.</p>	<p>Ombudsman <a href="http://www.ombudsman.ufl.edu/">http://www.ombudsman.ufl.edu/</a></p> <p>Dean of Students <a href="http://oss.ufl.edu/STC/">http://oss.ufl.edu/STC/</a></p> <p>Current Students <a href="http://www.ufl.edu/cstudnts.html#servStuds">http://www.ufl.edu/cstudnts.html#servStuds</a></p> <p>Registrar <a href="http://www.reg.ufl.edu/catalog.html">http://www.reg.ufl.edu/catalog.html</a></p>

1.3	<b>Separately Accredited Units</b>		
1.3.1	<i>A unit is <b>required</b> to apply for separate accreditation or to maintain separate membership if, in the judgment of the Commission, the unit exercises this level of autonomy.</i>	Not applicable to the University of Florida.	
1.3.2	<i>If an institution seeks separately accredited status for one of its units, it <b>must</b> notify the Executive Director of the Commission on Colleges of its intent and follow procedures established by the Commission. In all cases, the Commission on Colleges reserves the right to determine the accreditation status of separate units of an institution.</i>	Not applicable to the University of Florida.	
1.4	<b>Conditions of Eligibility</b>		
1.4.1	<i>Any institution seeking candidacy <b>must</b> document its compliance with each of the thirteen Conditions of Eligibility to be authorized initiation of a self-study, or to be awarded candidacy or candidacy renewal. In addition, the institution <b>must</b> provide evidence that it is capable of complying with all requirements of the Criteria and that it will be in compliance by the end of the period allowed for candidacy.</i>	Not applicable to the University of Florida.	
1.4.2	<i>The Conditions of Eligibility are basic qualifications which an institution of higher education <b>must</b> meet to be accredited by the Commission on Colleges. They establish a threshold of development required of an institution seeking initial or continued accreditation by the Commission and reflect the Commission's basic expectations of candidate and member institutions. Compliance with the Conditions is not sufficient to warrant accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. Accredited institutions <b>must</b> also demonstrate compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation which holds institutions to appropriately higher standards of quality.</i>	See following section.	
1.4.3.1	<i>In obtaining or maintaining accreditation with the Commission on Colleges, an institution <b>agrees</b></i>	The university will comply with all SACS <i>Criteria for Accreditation</i> . The university agrees that the Commission on Colleges may make the university's	

	<p><i>to the following:</i></p> <p><i>a. That it will comply with the Criteria for Accreditation of the College Delegate Assembly consistent with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges.</i></p> <p><i>b. That the Commission on Colleges, at its discretion may make known to any agency or member of the public requiring such information, the nature of any action, positive or negative, regarding the institution's status with the Commission.</i></p> <p><i>c. That it will comply with Commission requests, directives, decisions and policies, and will make complete, accurate and honest disclosure. Failure to do so is sufficient reason, in and of itself, for the Commission to impose a sanction, or to deny or revoke candidacy or accreditation.</i></p>	<p>accreditation status known to the public. The university will make every attempt to comply with Commission requests and policies; full and honest disclosure of all information requested will be made.</p>	
1.4.3.2	<p><i>The institution <b>must</b> have formal authority from an appropriate government agency or agencies located within the geographic jurisdiction of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees, certificates or diplomas.</i></p>	<p>The University of Florida is a public, land grant and sea grant research university, one of the most comprehensive in the United States. Of Florida's 11 state universities, the University of Florida is the oldest and largest. A Board of Trustees governs the University of Florida; the Governor appoints the Trustees. There are three State of Florida statutes that relate to the authority to award degrees: 240.2011 defines the State University System (SUS); 240.202 describes the delegation of authority to the University President; and 229.0082 delineates the President's powers and duties of which the awarding of degrees is specifically noted.</p> <p>The ongoing educational governance reorganization may impact Statutes 240.2011 and 240.202. These statutes are to be repealed on January 7, 2003; however, they will be reviewed by the legislature prior to that date. Section 229.0082 was created through the Education Governance Reorganization Bill (HB 1533, Section 15) passed in the 2001 legislative session.</p>	<p>Florida State Statutes 240.2011, 240.202, and 229.0082, in documents room</p>
1.4.3.3	<p><i>The institution <b>must</b> have a governing board of at least five members, which has the authority and duty to ensure that the mission of the institution is implemented. The governing board is the legal body responsible for the institution. Evidence <b>must</b> be provided that the board is an active</i></p>	<p>On July 1, 2001, the University of Florida Board of Trustees became the governing body for the institution. Section 14 of the Educational Reorganization Bill creates Section 229.0081, Florida Statutes, relating to powers and duties of the 11 state university boards of trustees. This statute vests the boards of trustees with authority to govern and set policy for their respective universities in accordance with law and rules of the Florida Board of Education (FBOE). The</p>	<p>Bylaws of the University of Florida Board of Trustees  <a href="http://www.trustees.ufl.edu/bylaws/index.html">http://www.trustees.ufl.edu/bylaws/index.html</a></p>

	<p><i>policy-making body for the institution. The board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are used to provide a sound educational program. The board <b>must</b> not be controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from the board. The presiding officer of the board and a majority of the other voting members must have no contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution. The bylaws of the board or other legal documents <b>must</b> ensure appropriate continuity in the board membership, usually by staggered terms of adequate length. The bylaws or other legal documents <b>must</b> ensure their independence of the board. Amendment of the bylaws <b>must</b> occur only by vote of the board after reasonable deliberation.</i></p>	<p>University of Florida Board of Trustees is comprised of 13 members--12 members are appointed by the Governor for staggered 4-year terms, and one member, the elected President of the University's Student Body, serves a one-year term. Appointed members may be reappointed for a second 4-year term.</p> <p>Specifically this statute authorizes boards of trustees to adopt rules and policies relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting presidents and setting conditions of employment for presidents</li> <li>• Developing university strategic plans and submitting budget requests</li> <li>• Providing for academic freedom and academic responsibility</li> <li>• Approving and terminating degree programs</li> <li>• Purchasing and managing university property</li> <li>• Establishing codes of conduct and penalties for violations</li> <li>• Administering university personnel programs</li> <li>• Governing student admissions</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, the statute directs boards of trustees to work collaboratively to achieve a seamless education system; to set tuition and fees within proviso and law; and to implement university facilities plans in accordance with law and guidelines of the Commissioner of Education's Office of Educational Facilities.</p>	<p>Board of Trustees Committees and Membership  <a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&amp;Title_Request=XVI">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&amp;Title_Request=XVI</a></p>
1.5	<b>Initial Membership</b>		
1.5.1	<p><i>An institution seeking initial membership (accreditation), in addition to fulfilling requirements outlined in the Criteria, <b>must</b> document its compliance with all Conditions of Eligibility and have been in operation--i.e., have, without interruption, enrolled students in degree programs- through at least one complete degree program cycle and have graduated at least one class at the level of the highest degree offered prior to action by the Commission on Colleges.</i></p>	<p>Not applicable to the University of Florida.</p>	
1.6	<b>Representation of Status</b>		
1.6.1	<p><i>An institution <b>must</b> be accurate in reporting to the public its status and relationship with the Commission.</i></p>	<p>The university acknowledges its status and relationship with the Commission by using the following statement: "<i>The University of Florida is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools –Commission on Colleges to award the degrees of bachelor, master, specialist and engineer, as well as doctoral and professional degrees.</i>"</p>	<p>Introduction, Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs  <a href="http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/">http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/</a>  and  <a href="http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/gradcat/">http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/gradcat/</a></p>

1.6.2	<i>For institutions in Candidacy status: (Name of institution) is a Candidate for Accreditation with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award (name specific degree levels).</i>	Not applicable to the University of Florida.	
1.6.3	<i>No statement may be made about possible future accreditation status with the Commission on Colleges. The logo or seal of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools <b>must not</b> be used by the institution.</i>	No university publication includes a statement that implies future accreditation by the Commission, nor does any university publication use the logo or seal of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.	