

SACSCOC Accreditation Briefing for the Board of Visitors

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is the accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Government for quality assurance in W&M's region. Accreditation by SACSCOC "signifies that the institution (1) has a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and (3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives." W&M is now preparing for our reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC, a process that occurs every 10 years. Every part of the institution is reviewed as part of this initiative. The ByLaws of W&M's Board of Visitors delegate oversight of the reaffirmation process to the Provost.

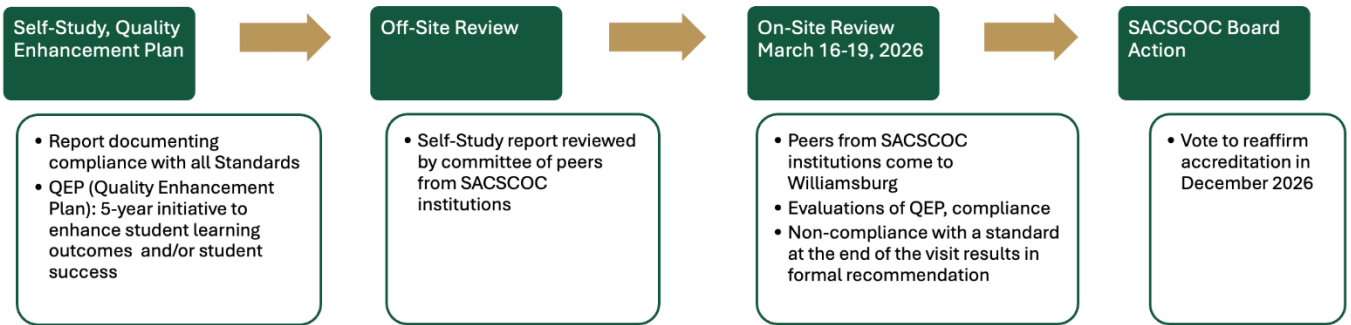
I. Standards Related to the Board: Section 4 of SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation*

- 4.1. The institution has a governing board of at least five members that is:
 - a) the legal body with specific authority over the institution.
 - b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution.
 - c) ensures that both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution.
 - d) is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organization or institutions separate from it.
 - e) is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution.

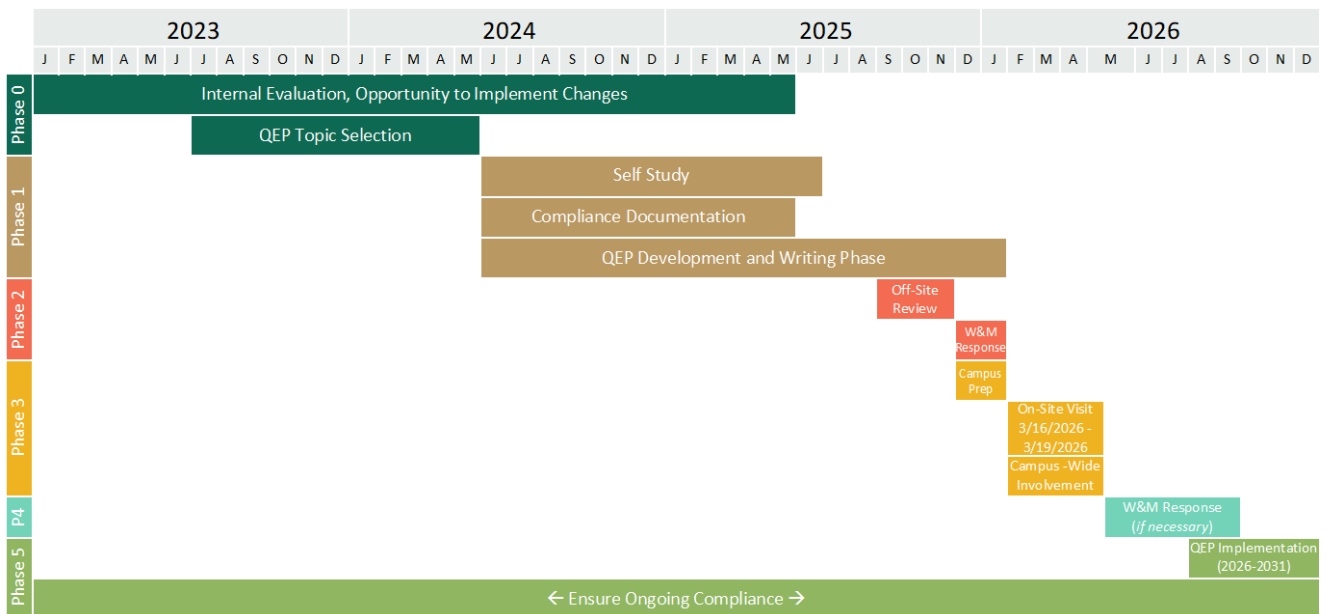
- 4.2 The governing board:
 - a) ensures the regular review of the mission.
 - b) ensures a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the respective responsibilities of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.
 - c) selects and regularly evaluates the institution's chief executive officer
 - d) defines and addresses potential conflict of interest for its members.
 - e) has appropriate and fair processes for the dismissal of a board member.
 - f) protects the institution from undue influence by external persons or bodies.
 - g) defines its responsibilities and regularly evaluates its effectiveness.

- 4.3 Multi-level governance (N/A for W&M)

II. Process



III. Timeline



IV. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board leading up to Reaffirmation

- Consider how the Board’s actions and Bylaws demonstrate compliance and update processes and/or Bylaws when needed. For example, is the Board regularly conducting a biennial self-evaluation (Standard 4.2.g)?
- Engage in discussion during regular reaffirmation updates at Board meetings.
- The SACSCOC On-Site Committee engages with a small group of Board members during the on-campus visit in 2026.

V. Resources

- W&M’s Quality Enhancement Plan webpage (<http://wm.edu/IAE/QEP>)
- W&M’s Reaffirmation Leadership Team (<https://www.wm.edu/offices/iae/accreditation/quality-enhancement-plan/reaffirmation-leadership-team/>)
- SACSCOC’s Principles of Accreditation (<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2024/01/2024PrinciplesOfAccreditation.pdf>)
- SACSCOC’s website (www.sacscoc.org)