



SACSCOC accreditation, quality improvement go ‘hand in hand’ at UMMC

By Dr. Mitzi Norris



Norris

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation is one of 17 academic accreditations at UMMC, excluding residencies. All programmatic accreditations, such as the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, rest under the umbrella of our institution-wide SACSCOC accreditation.

This massive reaccreditation occurs decennially with an abbreviated review in the middle. We have been examining our processes and policies against the standards for the last two years. The writing phase began more than a year ago and preparation in intensifying as we move toward submitting the report this summer. Our onsite visit will be in March 2022.

SACSCOC is celebrating its 125th year. The University of Mississippi, our parent institution, was one of the first schools accredited.

A century ago, accreditation distinguished institutions with status and provided an important marketing advantage. Today, institutions of higher learning must attain the legal status of accreditation to satisfy U.S. Department of Education requirements and to qualify for federal financial aid. Additionally, the Higher Education Act uses accreditation as a means of quality assurance.

Although the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, our governing board, requires SACSCOC accreditation and programmatic

accreditation for programs where such accreditation is available, there are other reasons to go through the process.

To best prepare our students, we must be vigilant in maintaining high standards for our academic programs. Accreditation validates that goal. It demonstrates how our programs measure up against commonly accepted standards.

As we go through the accreditation process, we identify areas where we are missing the mark. As we find those gaps, we fix them. So far, our SACSCOC process has identified and improved 16 areas. In the process, we improve our academic programs and strengthen our academic mission.

SACSCOC has 73 standards that encompass 14 areas, including faculty, academic programs, student services, administration, mission, governance, institutional planning and effectiveness, policies, transparency, resources (e.g., library, financial, physical), and student achievement. Accreditation benchmarks our achievement of these educational standards.

The scrutiny of accreditation is important to our students and other stakeholders for credibility and transparency. Our academic programs provide students who become health care workers and researchers. This combination of need has never been more evident than in the current pandemic.

UMMC is providing care for many who are affected. Our researchers are developing tests and treatments for the novel coronavirus. As the state’s only academic health sciences center, accreditation is vital for our students and for the health of Mississippi.

New year brings innovative technology upgrades to Workday Student

By Elizabeth Jacobs



Jacobs

Workday Student is UMMC’s new student information system. This system is being configured and implemented in a phased rollout based on the numerous academic processes required to recruit, admit, educate and graduate students.

Most users don’t see the many processes involved, but a lot of activities are occurring “behind the scenes.” System-to-system interfaces remove data entry redundancies, allowing users to enter information in a single application and have it populated in others. Automated file transfers create Canvas courses and add enrollments. Built-in workflows provide automated steps required for task completion within the system.

Beginning this month, students and school administrations have new functionality available in Workday Student.

Students are now able to view and update personal information.

Legal name changes, withdrawals and leave of absence requests are now submitted and processed in Workday Student.

February will be a big month for students, too. Financial aid documents and action item requests will be processed in Workday Student. Award letters from financial aid will be viewable in the system in March, and course registration for summer 2021-22 classes will open in Workday Student in April.



As for school administrations, January brought the Curriculum Management module, in which changes to course information are entered, including course descriptions, credit values, instructional formats, delivery modes and grading scales.

February additions in Workday Student will include event planning and bulletin creation. These additions will make it possible for course registration in April for the summer 2021-22 semester.

As we begin a new year with new Workday Student functionality, remember to watch for functionality updates and learning resources. Visit the [Workday page](#) anytime for more information.

School of Medicine Mission Statement

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is committed to training skilled and compassionate physicians to provide high quality and equitable health care particularly to the state’s residents, including diverse and underserved populations. The school prepares learners to provide excellent care through programs of innovative education, state-of-the-art research and comprehensive clinical practice.

Despite COVID-19, Office of Admissions finds fresh reasons to be optimistic

By Wesley Wilson



Wilson

Last March, COVID-19 drastically shifted how medical educators approached the delivery of course content and information.

Overnight, faculty members adapted pedagogy to meet student needs while not reducing quality. Meanwhile, faculty, staff and administrators worked to develop training resources to ensure that faculty maintained the resources necessary to effectively educate our students.

Fortunately, the School of Medicine faculty adapted quickly and successfully delivered course content in a virtual format. While these transitions have not always been flawless, the faculty's tremendous dedication and efforts have resulted in the fall term's successful delivery.

While the pandemic continues to pose challenges for our institution, the Office of e-Campus, in collaboration with various leaders throughout our institution, created the NOTE course.

Instructional designers, DIS trainers, faculty and administrators collaborated

to provide faculty the resources necessary to deliver the best possible online content for the important job of educating our future health professionals.

Delivered via Canvas, NOTE allows participants to complete the course at an individualized pace. Through the successful completion of NOTE, faculty will be able to use Canvas, write objectives, create and use instructional resources and effectively deliver content in a virtual format.

In particular, participants will receive information on BigBlueButton, Canvas Studio and Nearpod, and how each provides students with synchronous and/or asynchronous content. Enroll at <https://umc.instructure.com/enroll/XXXLJC>.

Additionally, as the SOM continues its transition to using Microsoft Teams as its primary platform for distance learning, the Office of Medical Education has created the "Using Microsoft Teams" guide, which is being used as the instructional resource throughout several of the institution's schools.

The "Using Microsoft Teams" guide is available on the OME's Faculty Development webpage.

As instruction continues through the spring semester, additional challenges are inevitable; therefore, continuous learning and development opportunities will continue to arise. Regardless of the challenges presented, the OME will continue to offer individualized instructional and curricular support for departments, small groups or individual faculty.

To schedule a training or instructional support session, call Wesley Wilson at 4-1212 or email wwilson@umc.edu.

OME expands plans for faculty development in 2021

By Dr. Lecretia A. Buckley



Buckley

The Office of Medical Education is expanding plans for faculty development.

For the last two years, OME has designed and implemented a summer series of faculty development in the months of June and July, with planning for the third year underway. The sessions have focused on topics such as instructional design, technology, providing feedback, cultural competency and assessing course effectiveness.

With the onset of the pandemic, the 2020 series moved to a virtual format. This necessary change yielded an increase in attendance and faculty engagement.

In addition to the summer series, faculty development sessions are being planned for the spring and fall, addressing areas identified in a November 2020 faculty needs assessment that was administered by OME.

Areas identified in the session included synchronous software, flipped classroom, mentoring medical students and emotional intelligence. The needs assessment also pointed to a desire for brief summaries of some of the basics of the medical education program.

Anticipate more to come in each of the next few issues outlining our educational program objectives, the plan of study and the SOM's process for evaluating professionalism.

Spotlight shines on Curriculum Fund education administrator

By Beth Wilson



Wilson

For almost 10 years, I have worked in the Department of Family Medicine.

I began my UMMC journey at the Lakeland Family Medicine Clinic. After five years there, I moved to an on-campus position where I have worked almost five years in student programs.

Working with medical students at every stage of medical school has been a blessing and an honor to me.

I have always considered my main job in student programs as being a life coach, helping to guide the medical students down their professional paths to graduation.

It has been amazing through the years to witness medical students' journeys, from being anxious, new M1 students to confident physicians ready to take on the world.

Just recently, I have accepted a new role as education administrator in the Office of Medical Education in the School of Medicine. I am excited to enhance my professional growth by continuing to work alongside the medical students and learning more about the administrative duties in the School of Medicine.

Original student art brings joy, enhances medical education building's hallways

By Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams



Jackson-Williams

We are excited to be at the beginning of the new calendar year with the lessons from the challenges of 2020 to spur us forward.

One of those lessons for me has been about finding joy where we are. During the last year, administrators, faculty, staff and students have spent A LOT of time in the medical education building.

The building is as spectacular today as it was when we moved into it in 2017. It has a lot of natural lighting, is comfortably furnished and is technologically enabled.

The walls, however, have honestly been quite plain. We want to spread a bit of joyfulness in the building.

Early in 2019, we began to place composites of the classes on the walls so those walking through the building could see the many graduates of the educational program that are provided by the School of Medicine. The number of composites provides a visual impact of the educational program to current students and reminds administrators, faculty and staff of their impact on the medical profession. During this calendar year we will add art to selected walls within the building.

To obtain the art, we have challenged our current students who are artists to submit their personal art for review. A Student Art Committee has been

assembled and is being led by M2 student Alex Fratesi to select the art for the building at appropriate intervals during the year.

The goal is to divide the year into three parts – first third – photography; second third – charcoal; and final third – paint. We will be working with the Development Office to have the art framed. The art will be returned to each artist after it has been displayed in the building for a period of time.

This is an exciting endeavor to spotlight the talent of students and add to moments of reflection for those who pass through or spend significant time in the building. Throughout the year, be sure to check out the art and let us know your thoughts.