



ACCREDITATION

NEWSLETTER

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Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness: Leading the Way

The Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness (OAEE) participated in this year’s Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University annual 2026 Continuous Improvement Summit, a four-day virtual experience designed for faculty, staff, and institutional leaders committed to meaningful change. This year’s theme — Charting New Horizons — speaks directly to where we are as a field and where we must go next. Continuous improvement is no longer a side project; it’s the flight path forward.

Our BCM team hosted two sessions, showcasing Baylor College of Medicine’s leadership in accreditation.

“Advancing Institutional Effectiveness Through Strategic Alignment” presented by Caroline Young and Anju Bolton

“Using Data to Illuminate Attrition: A New Lens for Continuous Improvement in Student Success” presented by June Zhou and Ricky Mercado



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MOCK VISIT UPDATE

In January 2026, Baylor College of Medicine hosted a successful SACSCOC reaffirmation mock visit with our three site visitors below, an important preparatory step as we move toward our official on-site review later this month.



Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN
Site Visit Team Chair
Dean Emerita,
School of Nursing,
Vanderbilt University



Bradley Harrell, DNP, APRN
Assistant Dean for Community
Partnerships and Practice
Loewenberg College of Nursing
The University of Memphis



Hassan Aziz, PhD, FACS
Dean, College of Nursing &
Health Sciences
Texas A&M University - CC

The mock visit brought together experienced peer reviewers who provided valuable feedback on our Compliance Certification, Focused Report, and overall readiness for the reaffirmation process. Their insights highlighted areas of strength across the institution as well as opportunities to further refine our documentation and narrative. This collaborative exercise not only strengthened our preparation but also reinforced our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and excellence in fulfilling Baylor's mission.

We extend our appreciation to all faculty, staff, and students who contributed to the planning, presentations, and discussions that made this mock visit a meaningful and productive milestone.

FOCUS REPORT SUBMISSION

In February 2026, Baylor College of Medicine officially submitted its Focused Report as part of the SACSCOC reaffirmation process, marking a major milestone in our multi-year effort to demonstrate the strength, integrity, and continuous improvement of our institution.

This submission represents the collective work of faculty, staff, and leadership across the College, who came together to thoughtfully address questions raised by the off-site review committee regarding our Compliance Certification. Questions related to standards 5.4, 6.2.a, 13.2, 13.3, and 13.6 were all addressed, with each area supported by careful analysis, clear documentation, and a shared commitment to showcasing the quality of our academic programs, governance structures, and institutional effectiveness.

The Focused Report reflects not only our compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards but also our dedication to transparency and accountability in all aspects of our mission. As we move into the next phase of review—the on-site visit—we extend our appreciation to everyone who contributed their expertise and energy to this important work, and we remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community service.

SACSCOC REAFFIRMATION SITE VISITORS

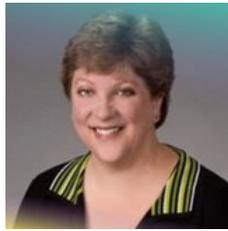
March 23rd to 26th, 2026, Baylor College of Medicine will welcome the SACSCOC on-site review committee to campus as part of our reaffirmation of accreditation. This visit represents a pivotal moment in the multi-year process, offering an opportunity for external peer reviewers to engage directly with our faculty, staff, students, and leadership while gaining a deeper understanding of our mission-driven work.

During their time on campus, the committee will evaluate our Compliance Certification, Focused Report, and overall institutional effectiveness. We look forward to building on the feedback provided during the off-site review and January mock visit while hosting our distinguished site visitors and showcasing the strength, integrity, and continuous improvement that define Baylor College of Medicine.

We are pleased to introduce the members of the visiting team.



Dr. Jay Marr
Vice President
SACSCOC



Dr. Nancy Gourash Bliwise
Teaching Professor Emerita
Emory University



Dr. T. Hampton Hopkins
President
Baptist Health Sciences
University



Dr. Bryan Carrier
VP for Student Life
Union University



Dr. Katherine Napier
Senior VP of Finance & CFO
Morehouse School of Medicine



Mr. Ronnie Chatterjee
Director, Office of
Institutional Effectiveness
Medical University of
South Carolina



Dr. Wendy Likes
Dean, Nursing
University of Tennessee
Health Science



Ms. Loretta Sheffield
Associate VP of Institutional
Effectiveness & Planning
Miami Regional University



BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE: NEW PROGRAM UPDATES

Baylor College of Medicine is proud to introduce two forward-looking academic programs designed to meet evolving scientific and clinical workforce needs. The new **Certificate in Tropical Health and Biotechnology program** is tailored for individuals interested in—or already engaged with—research in biotechnology, biopharmaceutics, or clinical research. Designed for graduate students with prior training in basic science or public health, the program provides specialized preparation at the intersection of global health challenges and emerging biotechnological solutions.

BCM is also launching a **PhD in Clinical Psychology program** aimed at individuals holding a bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field who seek advanced doctoral training with the goal of becoming licensed psychologists. This program emphasizes rigorous scientific training, evidence-based clinical practice, and the development of future leaders in mental health care. Together, these programs expand BCM's commitment to training professionals equipped to address complex health issues across diverse settings.

TRANSITION TO WATERMARK

The transition to Watermark has been completed successfully, thanks in large part to the careful coordination and dedication of our Program Assessment Liaisons. Their work in entering reports accurately and on time has ensured that we now have well-organized, accessible evidence to support our upcoming SACSCOC site visit. This smooth transition reflects both their attention to detail and their commitment to maintaining high standards in program assessment, allowing our office to provide clear and reliable documentation for accreditation purposes. We are grateful for their efforts in making this process efficient and effective.



watermark™

OUR MISSION, OUR PURPOSE

Mission: Our mission at Baylor College of Medicine is to provide guidance, support and resources to help faculty and staff create and implement effective changes while ensuring the highest quality of education for our students.

Purpose: Our purpose is to promote academic excellence and innovation through accreditation and education effectiveness. We strive to foster a culture of continuous improvement and to provide resources and support for faculty and staff to develop and implement effective educational programs that prepare students for success.

The Office of Accreditation and Education Effectiveness supports the Baylor College of Medicine education enterprise by:

- Facilitating institutional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and monitoring ongoing compliance with SACSCOC principles of accreditation
- Providing support for program level specialized accreditation
- Coordinating ongoing assessment of educational programs and the university's quality enhancement plan (QEP)
- Conducting and reporting the results of academic program reviews
- Conducting general institutional research and data analysis
- Reporting key academic performance metrics to federal, state, and professional organizations
- Conducting general institutional research and data analysis
- Providing process expertise in the approval of substantial changes to existing programs
- Managing educational affiliation agreements, observerships, and external learners

CONTACT US

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