



Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

According to the SACSCOC website:

The **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges** (SACSCOC) is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. It serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Latin America and other international sites approved by the Commission on Colleges that award associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees. The Commission also accepts applications from other international institutions of higher education.

The mission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is to assure the educational quality and to improve the effectiveness of its member institutions. The SACSCOC has six core values, including integrity, continuous quality improvement, peer review/self regulation, accountability, student learning, and transparency.

Accreditation by the 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.

The University of North Alabama is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor's, master's, and education specialist degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the University of North Alabama.

UNA's Road to SACSCOC Accreditation

The University of North Alabama was initially accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in 1934. Having maintained continuous accreditation since that time, UNA was last reaffirmed by SACSCOC in December 2012, and will submit a Fifth-Year Interim Report in the spring of 2018. The next decennial reaffirmation review is expected to be in 2022. To maintain SACSCOC accreditation is an ongoing process that is currently guided by compliance with the ***Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*** and by the policies and procedures of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Interested parties may contact the Commission on Colleges to learn about the accreditation status of UNA, to file a third-party comment at the time of the University's decennial review (the next review by the Commission on Colleges is in 2021-2022), or to file a complaint against the University for alleged non-compliance with a SACSCOC standard or requirement. Normal inquiries about the University of North Alabama, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc. should be addressed directly to the University and not to the SACSCOC. To contact the University call 256-765-4258, or write to: Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of North Alabama, UNA Box 5041, Florence, AL

35632-0001. To locate contact information for individual departments, see the campus directory at: <http://www.una.edu/directory/>.

SACSCOC requirements touch all aspects of the University's program. For more information about UNA's ongoing accreditation efforts, contact **Dr. Leah Graham**, UNA's SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison (256-765-4916), or e-mail sacs@una.edu.