



Discipline-Specific (Specialized) Accreditation Communication and Support # 370.006

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
October 29, 2018	November 17, 2020	Academic Affairs/Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

POLICY STATEMENT

Florida International University (FIU) designates the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) to provide support to units seeking discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation or reaccreditation. APA reports to the Florida Board of Governors on the status of accreditation for each of its colleges, schools, and academic programs for which there are established standards for discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation. APA reviews reports to discipline-specific (specialized) accrediting bodies to ensure accurate and consistent representation of FIU’s mission, policies and procedures, as well as other aspects of the University.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all academic programs who seek initial or continuing national or discipline-specific accreditation and thus includes members of the University Community (faculty, administration, staff, and students).

REASON FOR POLICY

Florida International University must submit the annual State University System Accreditation Survey to the Florida Office of the Board of Governors. Additionally, the University must provide immediate notification to the Florida Office of the Board of Governors when an accredited academic program is placed on warning or probation, or when the accreditation status is revoked by a discipline-specific accrediting body. The notification must include a report of any adverse accreditation findings provided by the discipline-specific accrediting body that outlines the basis for the change in accreditation status. Therefore, it is important that units within the University that hold, or are planning to apply for, discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation communicate with the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability throughout the review and application processes.



The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requires FIU to demonstrate that it describes itself in identical terms to each agency with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents. Additionally, the SACSCOC requires similar notification regarding FIU’s accreditation status from US Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies.

DEFINITIONS	
TERM	DEFINITIONS
N/A	N/A

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The President delegates responsibility for maintenance of discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation to the Provost.

The Provost delegates this responsibility to the academic deans, including informing the Provost of any change in accreditation status, warnings, probation, or withdrawal of accreditation.

The Office of Analysis and Information Management will notify the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) of the annual submission schedule to the Board of Governors.

The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) provides support to units that hold, or plan to apply for, discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation.

RELATED RESOURCES

Authority/Source
 Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.006 (www.flbog.edu)
 SACSCOC Policy – Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies (sacscoc.org)
 SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation*, revised December 2017 (14.4) (sacscoc.org)

Related Policies
 FIU Policy 300.012 Discipline-Specific (Specialized) Accreditation

CONTACTS

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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: October 29, 2018

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): November 17, 2020



Discipline-Specific (Specialized) Accreditation Communication and Support # 370.006a

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
October 15, 2020	November 17, 2020	Academic Affairs/Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The Office of Analysis and Information Management will notify the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) of the annual submission schedule to the Board of Governors.

1. Academic deans will respond to an annual survey conducted by APA regarding discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation.
2. APA will submit the annual State University System Accreditation Survey to the Florida Office of the Board of Governors.

The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) provides support to units that hold, or plan to apply for, discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation. Support services include the following:

1. Reviewing self-study and interim reports prior to submission - Academic deans will contact APA six months prior to initiating the accreditation review process to determine the level of support needed by the academic unit and to develop an action plan which will include a mutually agreed upon timeline for review and editing of reports and appendices.
2. Preparing for meetings that require the president and/or provost or other senior administrators to attend - Academic deans will provide APA with an executive summary including strengths, challenges, possible noncompliance(s), and potential resolutions. APA will need ample time to review the executive summary to provide adequate support to the academic unit and to prepare senior administrators for on-site meetings with accreditation site evaluators.
3. Ensuring all correspondence between the program and the accreditor accurately and consistently represents the University’s mission, policies, and procedures - Academic deans will provide APA with a copy of all official correspondence sent to, and received from, the discipline-specific (specialized) accrediting body; including but not limited to, the letter stating reaffirmation of program(s), committee action report or final results of accreditation reviews, program responses to issues of noncompliance, and other relevant correspondence affecting accreditation status. APA will need ample time to review subsequent reports to provide adequate support and feedback to the academic unit.