



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

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
October 29, 2018	February 7, 2024	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 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 units/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 provide immediate notification to the FIU Board of Trustees and Florida Board of Governors (BOG) when an accredited academic unit/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/programs 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 represents itself accurately to each agency with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents. Additionally, the SACSCOC requires similar notification regarding any change



in the accreditation status of an FIU unit/program with an accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Discipline-specific (specialized) accreditation	Specialized or programmatic accreditation normally applies to programs, departments, or schools that are part of an institution. The accredited unit may be as large as a college or school within a university or as small as a curriculum within a discipline.

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 with the requirement that an academic dean inform the Provost of any change in accreditation status, including but not limited to warnings, probation, or withdrawal of accreditation.

The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) provides support to units/programs 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 Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies Policy Statement (sacscoc.org)

SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* (sacscoc.org)

Related Policies

FIU Policy 300.012 Discipline-Specific (Specialized) Accreditation

CONTACTS

Division of Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
11200 S.W. 8 Street, PC 526
Miami, FL 33199
Telephone: (305) 348-2151



FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



Office of Academic Planning and Accountability
11200 S.W. 8 Street, PC 112
Miami, FL 33199
Telephone: (305) 348-1796

HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: October 29, 2018

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

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): November 17, 2020; February 7, 2024.



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

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
October 15, 2020	February 7, 2024	Academic Affairs/Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) provides support to units/programs 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.