A&T Prepares for New SACS Requirement
Quality Enhancement Plan requires input from broader campus community

Next spring, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will come to North Carolina A&T State University for an on-site reaffirmation of accreditation visit.

N.C. A&T is up for reaccreditation every 10 years. The University has been preparing for its spring 2010 visit since 2006, when the provost appointed the SACS Steering Committee—more than two dozen individuals (see list for membership) representing a wide range of expertise to ensure that all segments of the University have a voice in the SACS process.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges 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.

Did you know that a university’s accreditation status impacts its students’ qualifications for federal financial aid as well as an alumnus’s admission to accredited graduate programs? These are two more reasons why it is important for N.C. A&T to maintain its status.

The SACS Steering Committee oversees the entire SACS process and helps to build consensus around the Quality Enhancement Plan. QEP is a new SACS requirement through which the institution demonstrates that it can take input from the broader university community, existing data and its strategic plan and mission, then develop and implement a project aimed at improving specific aspects of student achievement of learning outcomes or improve something about the learning environment.

For example, last year the QEP Committee (see list for membership) held nominal group process meetings with all schools and colleges to solicit faculty, staff and administrators’ input for possible improvements in student achievement and the learning environment. The committee also conducted student and staff focus groups and administered student and alumni surveys. The meetings, focus groups and surveys resulted in input from more than 400 faculty, staff, administrators and trustees, and approximately 745 students and 15 alumni.

“The QEP Committee has conducted an ‘Importance-Performance’ rating assessment. The assessment compares aspects of student achievement and the learning environment. The University community values these results for how well the University is addressing those aspects,” said Vincent Childress, chair. “If we identify aspects of student achievement of high importance and low performance, this may end up being the focus of the QEP.”

The SACS Steering Committee, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee, the Assurance of Learning Committee, the Assurance of Student Learning Committee, and the Steering Committee have been meeting weekly for the past 15 months.

The QEP Steering Committee includes:
- Anjel R. Ahmad
- James J. Battle
- Sandra Blackstock
- Aanya Boyd-Patterson
- Patricia A. Chau
- Vincent Childress, Co-chair
- Ron Cooper
- Nita M. Dewberry *
- Debra D. Dunn
- Dina C. Eagle
- Dori G. Fultz *
- Joseph L. Graves Jr.
- Karen D. Guy *
- P. Scott Hummel *
- Demice Irvin-Payne *
- Hope W. Jackson
- Minnie Battle Mayes *
- Donie S. Mitchell *
- Sarjo Sarr *
- Malak Scott
- Scott Semkis *
- Isaiah Ugboro
- Leonard Utleyhem *
- Yvette Underdure Murph
- Robert Usery
- James T. Walker *
- Lea E. Williams, Co-chair
- Sandra T. Williamson *

* Chair or subcommittee

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Continuing Ed, Nursing Collaborate on Healthcare Programs

The pharmacy technicians program is a comprehensive 50-hour course that prepares students for entry into the pharmacy field and the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 10-May 5, 6-9:30 p.m. Pharmacy technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings, working under the supervision of a pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The medical billing and coding program is a 70-hour course that provides training in solving insurance billing problems, manually filing claims using the CPT and ICD-9 manual; completing common insurance forms for tracking delayed claims, appealing denied claims and using generic forms to streamline billing procedures. The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, March 9-May 27, 6-9:30 p.m.

The coursework covers CPT introduction, guidelines, evaluation and management; specialty fields such as surgery, radiology and laboratory; ICD-9 introduction and guidelines, and basic claims processes for medical insurance and third party reimburments.

After gaining practical work experience (up to six months prior to the course), students who complete this course could be qualified to sit for the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)-Certified Professional Coder Exam (CPC in CPC-H Apprentice), the American Health Information Association (AHIMA)-Certified Coding Associate (CCA) exam, and other national certification exams.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to completely and safely perform venipunctures.

Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection equipment, specimen hands-on practice, and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. Additionally, this program will prepare students to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT)-Phlebotomy Technician national certification exam. Classes will meet six hours on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 19-May 18, and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The EKG certification program is a comprehensive 50-hour certification program that prepares students to function as EKG technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT)-Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam and other National Certification Exams. The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, March 9-May 4, 6-9:30 p.m.

This course will include important practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography.

Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the chest wall for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices.

For other details, call Pat White, associate director of the Office of Evening Weekend and Continuing Studies, at (336) 334-7607, or send an e-mail to whitep@ncat.edu.
Public document were printed at a cost of $945 or $0.189 per copy.

Facilities are designed to provide

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a land-grant university that is ranked by the Carnegie Classification System as "high research activity." NC A&T is an AVEED employer, and it is an ADA compliant institution; thus, facilities are designed to provide accessibility to individuals with physical disabilities. 5,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of $945 or $0.189 per copy.

"the poet," a poem by Anjalj Rashida Ahmed, director of the Creative Writing Program, has been selected for inclusion in the second installment of the North Carolina Arts Council's three volume series, The Literary Trail Guide. The volume will be available online.

Kacie Bladock, assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling in the department of human development and services, co-authored a peer-reviewed article, "Unfrying and Elevating Rehabilitation Counseling Through Model-Driven, Diversity-Sensitive Evidence-Based Practice," that has been published in the Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling (Volume 39, Winter 2009).

Fouahd Fonge, associate professor of history, recently attended the Celebrating the Legacy of Pan Africanism: A 21st Century Dialogue conference at Johnson C. Smith University where he also presented a paper, "Queen Nzinga Mbikwi: The Unconquerable Amazon Queen of Ndongo and Matamba.

Emmanuel Ikogho, associate professor of French and Francophone literature in the department of foreign languages, has reviewed, edited and enhanced a book titled Invitation au Monde, Bonjour Tout le Monde. The book's intent is to give students a better and accurate understanding of grammatical and conceptual rules that govern the mastering of the French language. Efforts also were made to enhance students' oral near native fluency.

Lielle Sanchez-Lugo has been named interim director of the Institute for Public Health. She is a faculty member in the department of family and consumer sciences and director of the undergraduate program in nutrition and dietetics for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Sanchez-Lugo is a board member of the Minority Health Advisory Council for the state of North Carolina. She has taught at UNGC and the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, and she also served as a clinical dietitian for the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Sanchez-Lugo received her B.S and M.P.H. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and Ph.D. from UNCG.

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Sanchez-Lugo received her B.S and M.P.H. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and Ph.D. from UNCG. She has an M.S.F. degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Stanley F. Battle, Ph.D.
17th-Chancellor
North Carolina A&T State University

"After the data collected with this assessment are analyzed, the QEP Committee will return to the faculty and departments, share pertinent data, teach the faculty the criteria for what makes an acceptable QEP, and have them conceptualize scenarios of what the final idea for the QEP should be. Once the committee collects that final 'scenarios' input, it will make a recommendation on behalf of the University community as to what the final QEP should be."

By the end of the spring 2009 semester, the topics for the QEP will be identified, and the actual plan will be written during the summer.

"In the fall, we will begin aggressive marketing to ensure that everyone on campus is aware of and understands the QEP," Childrens said. "When the SACS on-site team visits the campus next spring, it will expect the University community to be well informed about the QEP."

SACS Steering Committee members chair various subcommittees that are responsible for (1) writing the Certification of Compliance, which provides proof that N.C. A&T is in compliance with the SACS Principles of Accreditation, (2) relying information about SACS to the schools, colleges and service units, and (3) helping to implement the QEP.

Two other groups that have critical roles in the SACS process are the SACS Document Review Committee and the SACS Policies Task Group. The former is comprised of senior faculty members assigned to critique drafts of the narrative report and provide written feedback. The latter is collecting all of the University's major policies, procedures and regulations. Once updated, these documents will be accessible online.

"To learn more about SACS, go to the A&T SACS website at: http://sacs.ncat.edu."