Assessment of Graduate Education for SACS Readiness

SACS Reaffirmation Awareness Day

January 22, 2010

The Division of Graduate Studies

Advertising, Publications and Promotional Literature

- The Division of Graduate Studies (DGS) is responsible for advertising graduate programs and student recruitment.
- The DGS exhibits integrity and responsibility in advertising, student recruitment and representation of accredited status.
- The DGS follows principles of good practice in advertisement and recruitment.

Advertising

- Statements in the Graduate Catalog and other publications are clear, factually accurate, current and supporting information is on file and readily available for review by on-site evaluators.

Graduate Catalog Information

- Accurate Graduate Program information, following Council of Graduate School (CGS) principles of good educational practice, is published throughout the Graduate Catalog, other DGS university-wide publications, promotional literature and recruitment packages.

Graduate Catalog

- Published every two-years in hard copy and distributed to college deans, chairpersons, graduate program directors, advisors and students.

- Electronic copy is updated every six months with new program information, graduate faculty listings and other policy changes.

Graduate Catalog Information

- Institutional purposes and goals;
- Entrance requirements;
- Transfer of credit;
- Programmatic information
  and courses;
- Advising, retention, completion requirements, continuous enrollment, leave of absence and time-limits;
- IRB Approval of Research;

- Examination Requirements;
- Standards for Academic Progress, Scholastic Dishonesty, Grievance Policies and Student Code of Conduct;
- Admission to Candidacy;
- Theses, Projects and Dissertation Requirements;
- Requirements for graduate support services and appropriate academic support services;

Graduate Catalog Information

- Policies for refunding tuition charges to students who withdraw;
- Competent faculty with earned degrees in the teaching or related discipline from recognized institutions;
- Graduate teaching assistants have earned master's in the teaching discipline or 18 graduate semester hours

Enhancements Required

- Review Sequence and frequency of course offerings;

- Separate listing of part-time faculty members;

- Validation of graduate faculty;

- Additional review of syllabi for progressively more advanced content, research and program rigor.

Student Recruitment and Admissions

- Student recruitment should be conducted by well-qualified admissions officers whose credentials, purposes, and position are clearly specified.

- Enhancements to be completed:
  - Hire a Coordinator of Graduate Admissions
    - Non-compliance

Representation of Accredited Status

- The accreditation comprehensive statement printed in the Graduate Catalog is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.14.1 in the Principles of Accreditation.

Admissions of Graduate Students

Admissions

- Admissions policies follow CGS best practices and are published in the Graduate Catalog and communicated accurately and effectively to prospective students and other constituents.

Enrollment Management

- Assessment of the enrollment of graduate students for the past three years is indicated below:
  - 2007   1,875   (21.0%)
  - 2008   1,825   (21.8%)
  - 2009   1,978   (22.5%)

Enrollment Management

- Assessment of enrollment of first-time entering graduate students for the past three years is indicated below:
  - –2007   524   (6.0%)
  - –2008   495   (5.9%)
  - –2009   602   (6.9%)

Enrollment Management

- Assessment of enrollment of returning graduate students for the past three years is indicated below:
  - 2007   1330   (15.3%)
  - 2008   1316   (15.7%)
  - 2009   1369   (15.6%)

Retention

Retention of Graduate Students

- Assessment of Fall-to-Fall Cohorts for the past three years is indicated below:
  - 2007   ____%
  - 2008   ____%
  - 2009   ____%

Retention Efforts

- CyberOrientation
- CyberAdvising
- Graduate faculty conducts intense advising
- Monitoring GECE results
- Monitoring satisfactory academic progress
- Departmental assessment and intervention
- Monitoring GACE results
- Student Support Services

Entrance Examination

- The Graduate English Competency Examination (GECE) is required of all first-time master-level students and selected doctoral students. The test, administered three times a year, is designed to show strengths and weaknesses of entering students in the areas of grammar and usage, logic, organization and content.

GECE Results

- Assessment of GECE scores for the past three years are indicated below:
  - 2007   80%
  - 2008   84%
  - 2009   90%

GECE Results With Intervention

- GECE students who are not successful are required to complete ENG 500 with a grade of "B" or higher. Registration holds are used to enforce enrollment for the next semester. A three-year completion rate is indicated below:
  - 2007   91%
  - 2008   98%
  - 2009   53%

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- The Graduate Advising, Assessment and Retention (GAAR) Intervention Committee monitors and assesses the academic performance of students each semester. The purpose is to identify first-time and enrolled graduate students with a GPA below 3.0 and provide early intervention services. Registration holds are placed on student records pending Academic Enhancement Plan (AEP) approval.

SAP

- Assessments of student satisfactory academic progress for the past three-years are indicated below:
  - –2007   96%
  - –2008   96%
  - –2009   96%

Graduate Area Comprehensive Examinations (GACE)

- Graduate Area Comprehensive Examinations are administered by discipline-specific graduate faculty members. Aggregate successful results from the past three-years are indicated below:
  - 2007
  - 2008
  - 2009

Graduate Degrees Conferred

- Assessment of graduate degrees conferred for the past three-years are listed below:
  - 2007 360M   24S 61D   445
  - 2008 370M   22S 52D   444
  - 2009 352M   25S 56D   433