



ACCREDITATION NEWSLETTER

October 2015

SAVE THE DATE WSCUC Initial Accreditation Visit

10-12 NOVEMBER 2015

WSCUC Reports

WASC STEERING COMMITTEE

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CONTACT

Feel free to contact any member of the steering committee to learn more

WASC SENIOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMMISSION (WSCUC)

Institutional Accreditation What is it?

- Unlike professional accreditation (such as ABET and AACSB), institutional accreditation focuses on evaluating the institution as a whole
- It is a rigorous, ongoing and lengthy process, by which the University demonstrates that it offers high-quality education - a judgment made by peers
- It helps the University identify areas that need further development

About WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)

- One of six regional accrediting associations that accredit all academic institutions in the United States
- Ensures that institutions it accredits are fulfilling their missions in service to their students and the public good
- Only three international institutions (outside the US) are currently accredited by WSCUC

WSCUC Accreditation Requirements

▶ 39 Criteria for Review (CFR) that clarify the standards

- Student learning and success
- Quality and improvement
- Institutional integrity, sustainability, and accountability

▶ 4 standards built upon the core commitments, articulating good practice

We need to show that:

- Our mission, purpose and educational objectives are appropriate for a leading university
- We achieve our educational objectives
- Our resources and systems ensure quality and sustainability
- We are committed to continued quality improvement

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Why Does International Accreditation Matter to UAEU?

- It is a proven quality-improvement process, which will give external validation to our programs
- It will give us increased credibility within the international higher education sector
- It will aid in faculty and student recruitment



Dr. Ali R. Al Noaimi
Vice Chancellor
[Video link](#)

The University has made significant strides in its bid to obtain WSCUC accreditation. This was made possible because of the hard work and distinction of the faculty at UAEU. During the Mock Visit in August 2015, the Team met with many administrators, faculty, alums and students, and were impressed with the contributions alumni and students made to the Institution. Furthermore, alumni were well aware of the significance and impact accreditation will have on UAEU and them personally. Our alumni took pride in their Institution because it added value to their careers and that they felt the impact faculty have had on their future. I commend alums for their continued loyalty to UAEU.

THE STATUS OF ACCREDITATION

The status of accreditation indicates that an institution has fulfilled the requirements for accreditation established by the WSCUC's 2013 Handbook of Accreditation. This means that the institution has:

- Demonstrated that it meets the Core Commitments;
- Conducted a self-review under the Standards of Accreditation, developed and presented indicators of institutional performance, and identified areas for improvement;
- Developed approved institutional reports for accreditation that have been evaluated by teams of peer evaluators under the relevant institutional review processes;
- Demonstrated to the Commission that it meets or exceeds the expectations of the Standards of Accreditation;
- Committed itself to institutional improvement, periodic self-evaluation, and continuing compliance with Commission Standards, policies, procedures and decisions.

ELIGIBILITY STATUS ACHIEVED BY UAEU

“United Arab Emirates University has applied for Eligibility from the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). WSCUC has reviewed the application and determined that the University is eligible to proceed with an application for Candidacy and Initial Accreditation. A determination of Eligibility is not a formal status with the WASC Senior College and University Commission, nor does it ensure eventual accreditation. It is a preliminary finding that the institution is potentially accreditable and can proceed within five years of its Eligibility determination to be reviewed for Candidacy or Initial Accreditation status with the Commission.”



WSCUC accreditation is an incredible opportunity for UAEU. I believe that accreditation will help improve programs, enhance enrollment as well as boost the quality of teaching and learning in Emirati public schools. I look forward to sharing, with the Accreditation Team, the work the College of Education has already been doing that meets WASC standards.

Prof. Bernard Oliver

Dean, College of Education

[Video link](#)

DEANS, CHAIRS AND OTHER ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATORS

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Be proactive! communicate & share information: meet with faculty, students, and staff
2. Resetting priorities to include WSCUC accreditation as a top priority
3. Update college/department brochures/pamphlets & website
4. Make sure that accreditation standards are considered when you are doing your business
5. Watch out for “Substantive Changes”! (degree programs, method of delivery, organization mission, etc.)
6. Accreditation & assessment are ongoing, not sporadic. Accreditation is an evidence-based process. Evidence needs to be:
 - Gathered routinely and systematically
 - Analyzed and reflected upon
 - Published and shared
 - Used for planning improvements
 - Multiple types
7. Analyze retention & graduation rates at the program level (disaggregated by gender) and identify strategies to make improvements
8. Analyze grades at the end of each semester
9. Make sure course portfolios are complete
10. Make sure faculty profiles are updated



I believe that the WSCUC accreditation will be a huge achievement for UAEU. It will contribute to the success and growth of the University in terms of educational and operational effectiveness.

Dr. Meera Saeed Al Kaabi
Assistant Professor of Linguistics
[Video link](#)

FACULTY MEMBERS

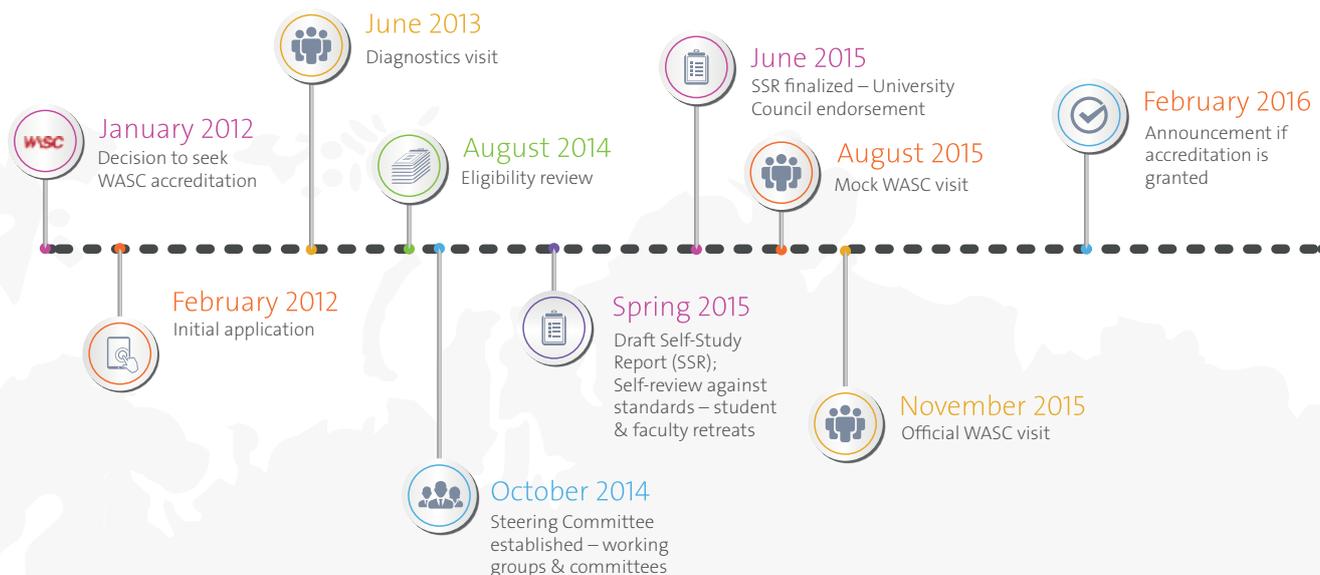
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THINGS THAT HAPPENED AND WILL HAPPEN DURING SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015

- Presentations to the academic administrators and newly-joined faculty about WSCUC, status of UAEU accreditation, achievements to date and challenges.
- Communications with all University constituents, including faculty, students, staff, board members, advisory boards, etc., to inform them about the accreditation process; what we did, where we are, and what is required from each group;
- Preparations for the big day! WSCUC visit needs many preparations, logistically and technically.
- Follow-up on recommendations of the mock visit

ACCREDITATION MILESTONES



“I am confident that I am receiving the best and highest caliber of education at UAEU. I am looking forward to UAEU receiving its accreditation.”

Suood Yousef Abdulaziz Saqr Humoodah

Mechanical Engineering Student
College of Engineering
[Video link](#)

“Having a degree from an internationally accredited institution will enhance my career prospects overseas.”

Khulood Omar Eid Humaid

Translation Student
College of Humanities and Social Science
[Video link](#)

PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS ACCREDITED BY WSCUC

Over 170 institutions are accredited by WSCUC, including the following renowned universities:

- Stanford University
- California Institute of Technology
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California
- University of California, Riverside
- San Diego State University
- University of Hawaii at Manoa